

EPICS &  
MYTHOLOGY



# PRABHAVATI

THE ASURA PRINCESS

Vol 761 | ₹50

## PRABHAVATI

The demon, Vajranabha, performs severe penance. Pleased, Brahma grants him the city of Vajra, and says that not even air will enter the city, unless Vajranabha wants it to. Now, powerful in his impregnable city, Vajranabha turns his sights on Indra's kingdom. Indra goes to Krishna for help.

What Vajranabha does not realise is that his daughter, Prabhavati, has set her heart on marrying Pradyumna, the son of Krishna.

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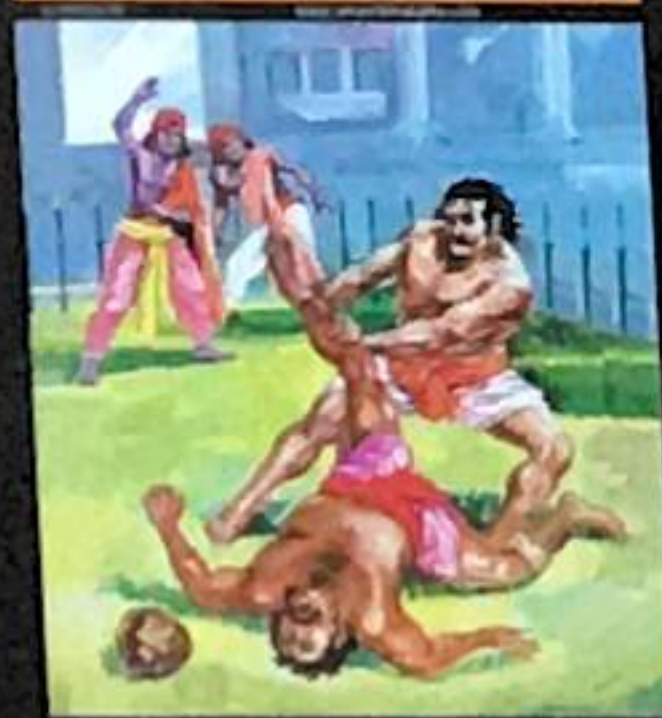
#### PRADYUMNA



#### INDRA AND SHACHI



#### KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA



#### KRISHNA AND SHISHUPALA



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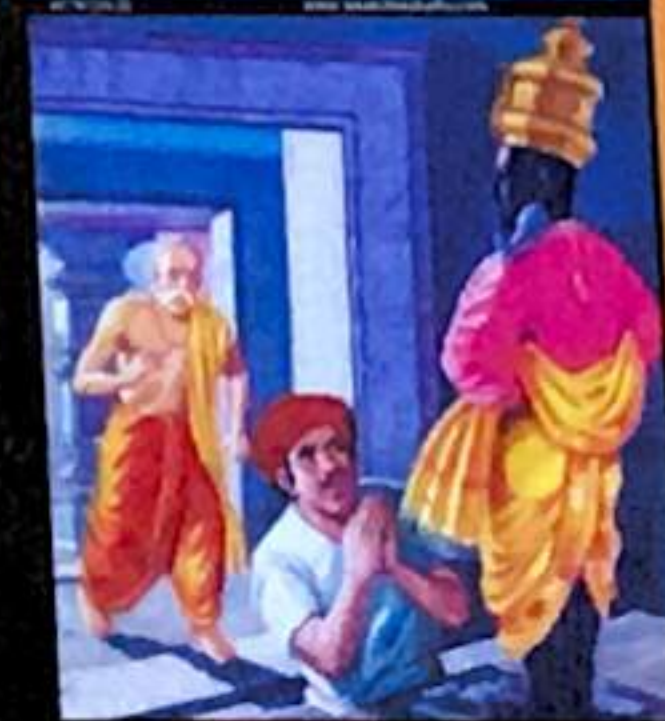
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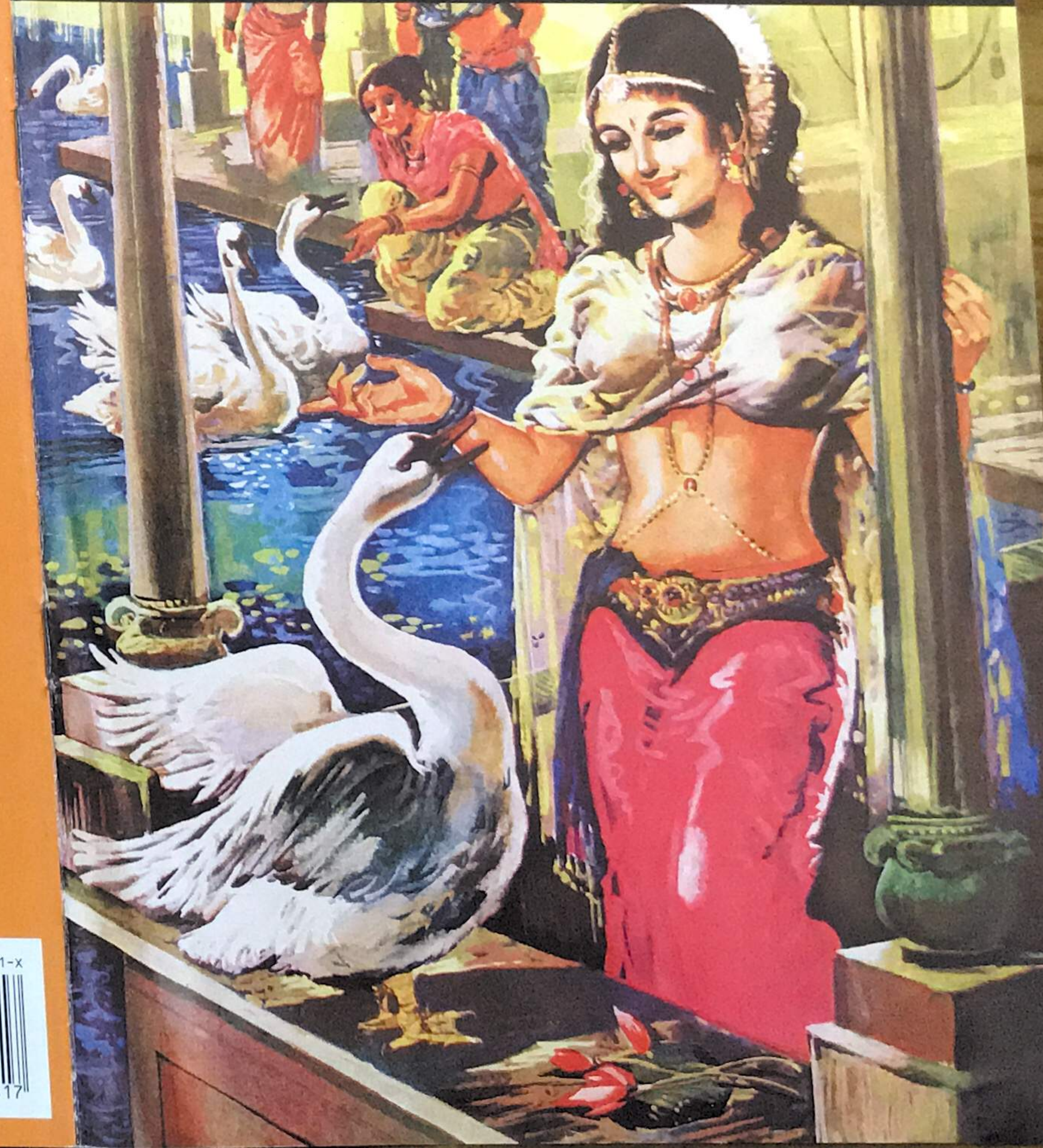
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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

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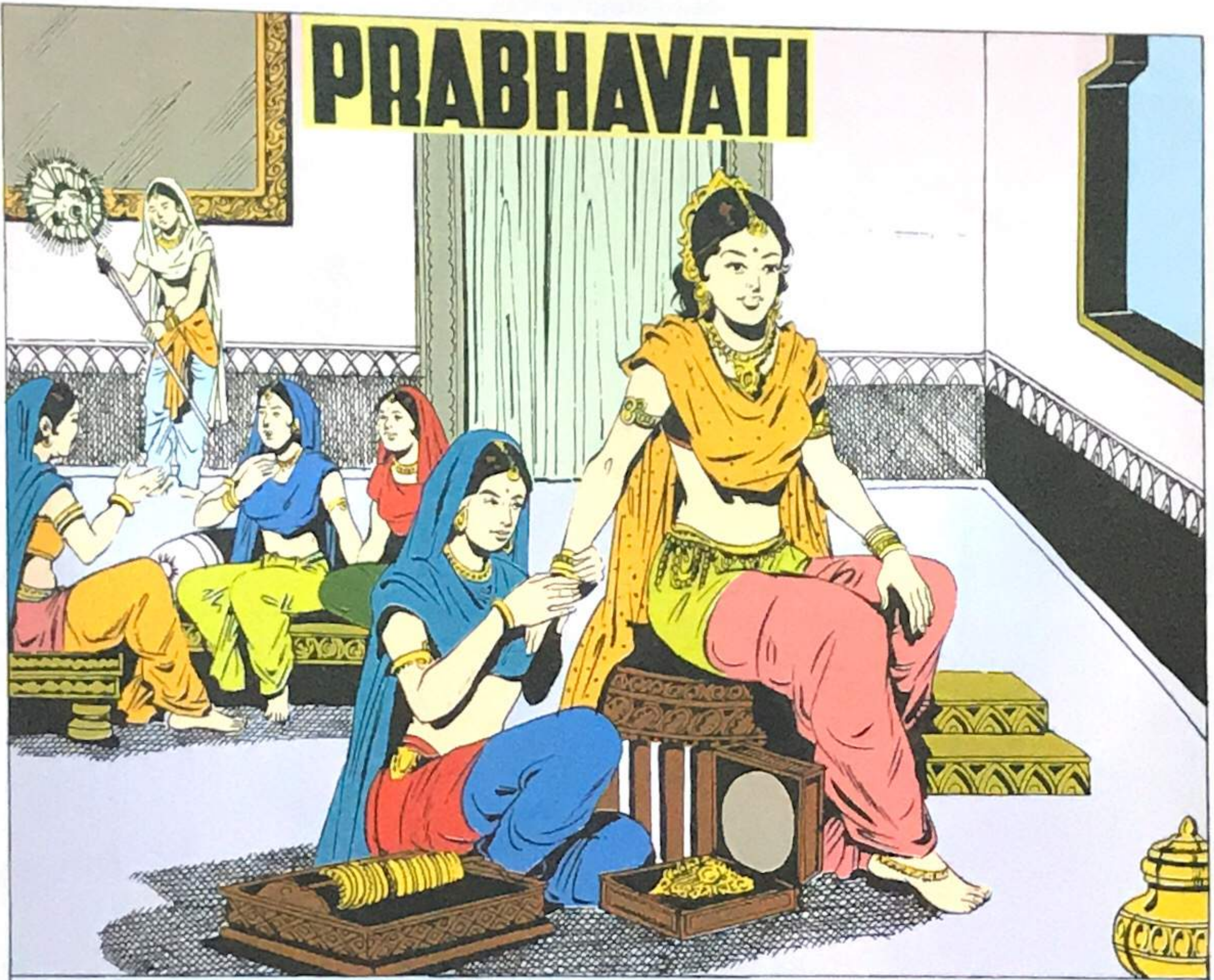


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# PRABHAVATI



PRABHAVATI, THE YOUNG DAUGHTER OF THE GREAT ASURA, VAJRANABHA, WAS LISTENING INTENTLY TO THE GOSSIP OF THE ELDERLY ASURA WOMEN, IN THE INNER APARTMENTS OF THE PALACE.



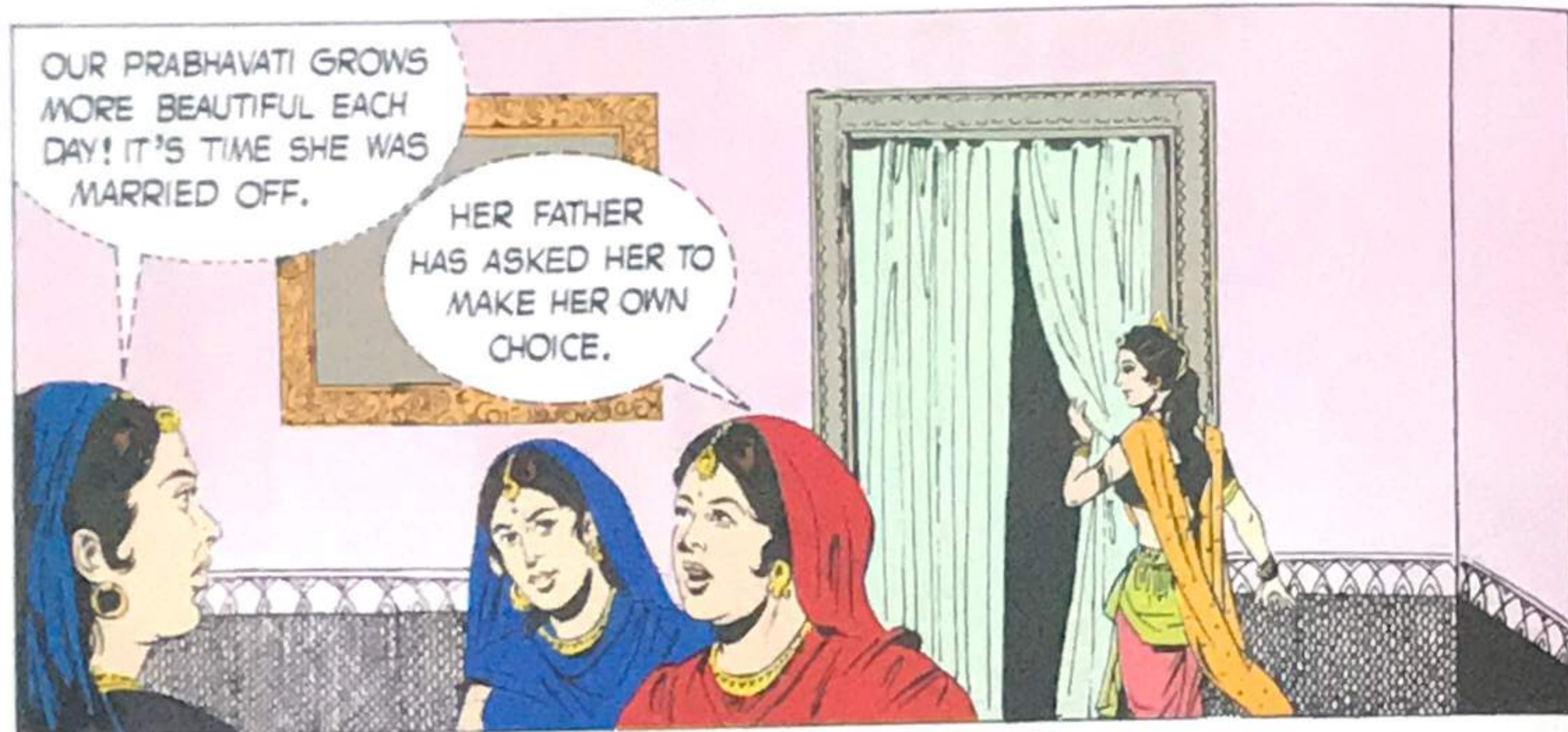
HAVE YOU HEARD? PRADYUMNA, THE SON OF THAT YADAVA, KRISHNA, HAS KILLED THE MIGHTY SHAMBARA.

BUT ISN'T HE A MERE LAD?

FIRST THE FATHER, NOW THE SON. WILL OUR TROUBLES NEVER END?

THAT MEANS THEIR FAMILY IS SUPERIOR TO OURS - SUPERIOR TO OUR VERY RACE.





OUR PRABHAVATI GROWS MORE BEAUTIFUL EACH DAY! IT'S TIME SHE WAS MARRIED OFF.

HER FATHER HAS ASKED HER TO MAKE HER OWN CHOICE.



TRUE ENOUGH. BUT MANY ARE THE HANDSOME, BRAVE ASURAS WHO HAVE GONE BACK DISAPPOINTED AT HER REFUSAL.

WHAT IS SHE LOOKING FOR?

I WONDER IF SHE HERSELF KNOWS. SHE REFUSED MY SON BUT GAVE NO REASON.

PRABHAVATI WAS ON HER WAY TO MEET HER FAVOURITE COUSINS AND CONFIDANTS.

AS SHE WALKED DOWN THE PASSAGE, SHE HAD TO PASS HER FATHER'S CHAMBER.



CHANDRAVATI AND GUNAVATI WILL BE WAITING FOR ME BY THE TANK. I MUST HURRY.

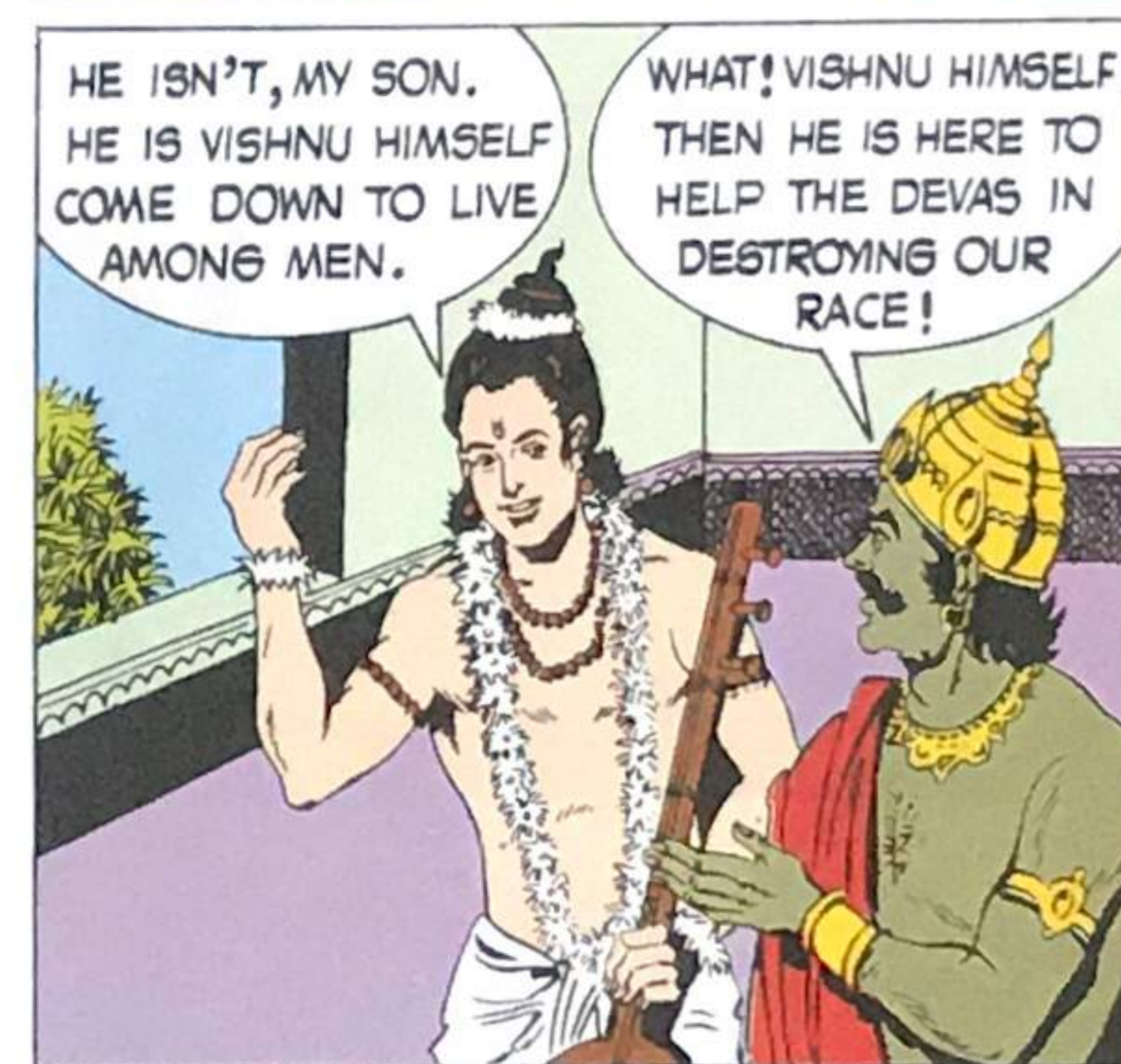


A MAN'S VOICE? IN THE INNER APARTMENTS? WHO COULD IT BE?



OH, IT'S THE SAGE NARADA! THEY SPEAK OF KRISHNA.

WHERE DOES THAT YADAVA GET HIS POWER FROM? AFTER ALL, HE IS A MERE MORTAL!



HE ISN'T, MY SON. HE IS VISHNU HIMSELF. HE IS HERE TO LIVE AMONG MEN.

WHAT! VISHNU HIMSELF! THEN HE IS HERE TO HELP THE DEVAS IN DESTROYING OUR RACE!

PRABHAVATI HAD HEARD ENOUGH. SHE MOVED ON.

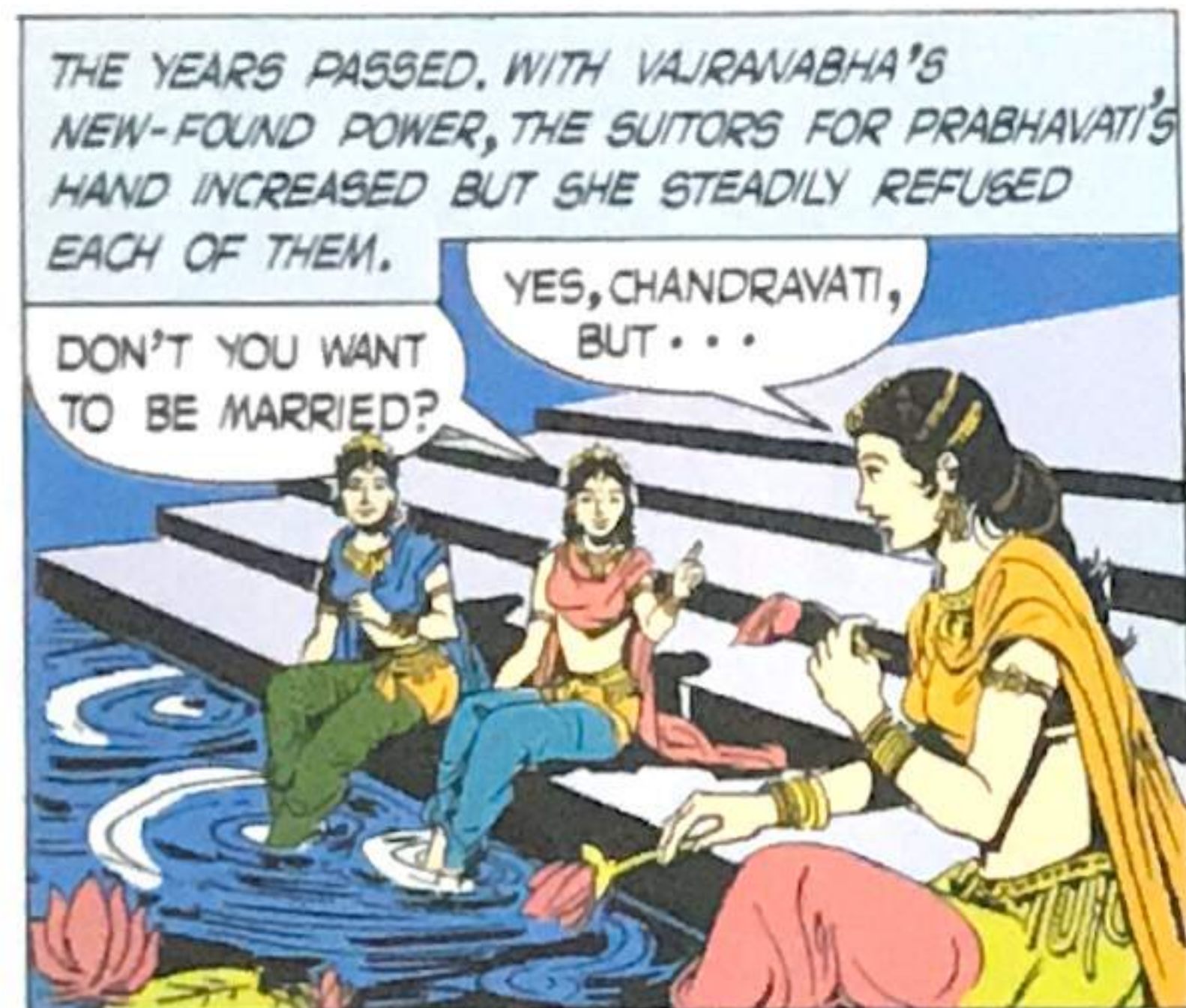
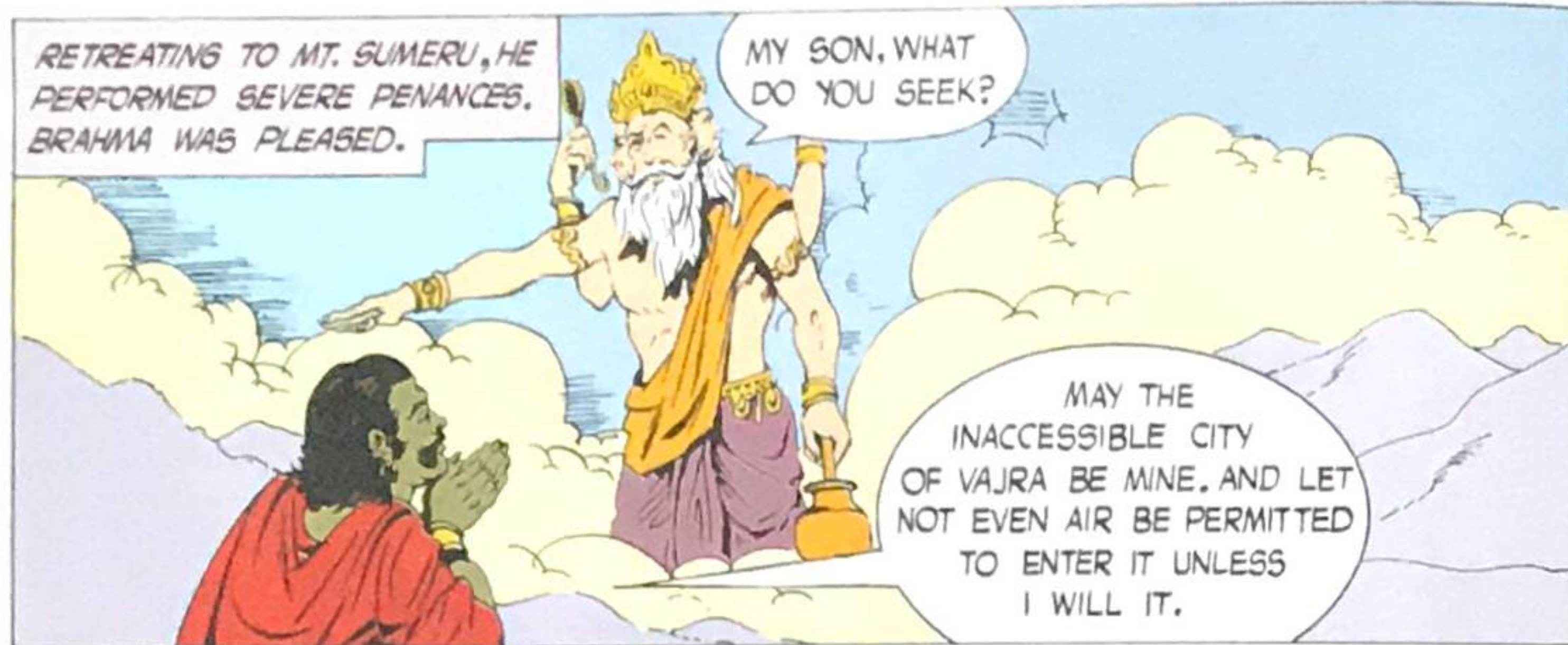
SO PRADYUMNA IS THE SON OF VISHNU. IF ONLY HE WOULD COME HERE AS MY SUITOR.



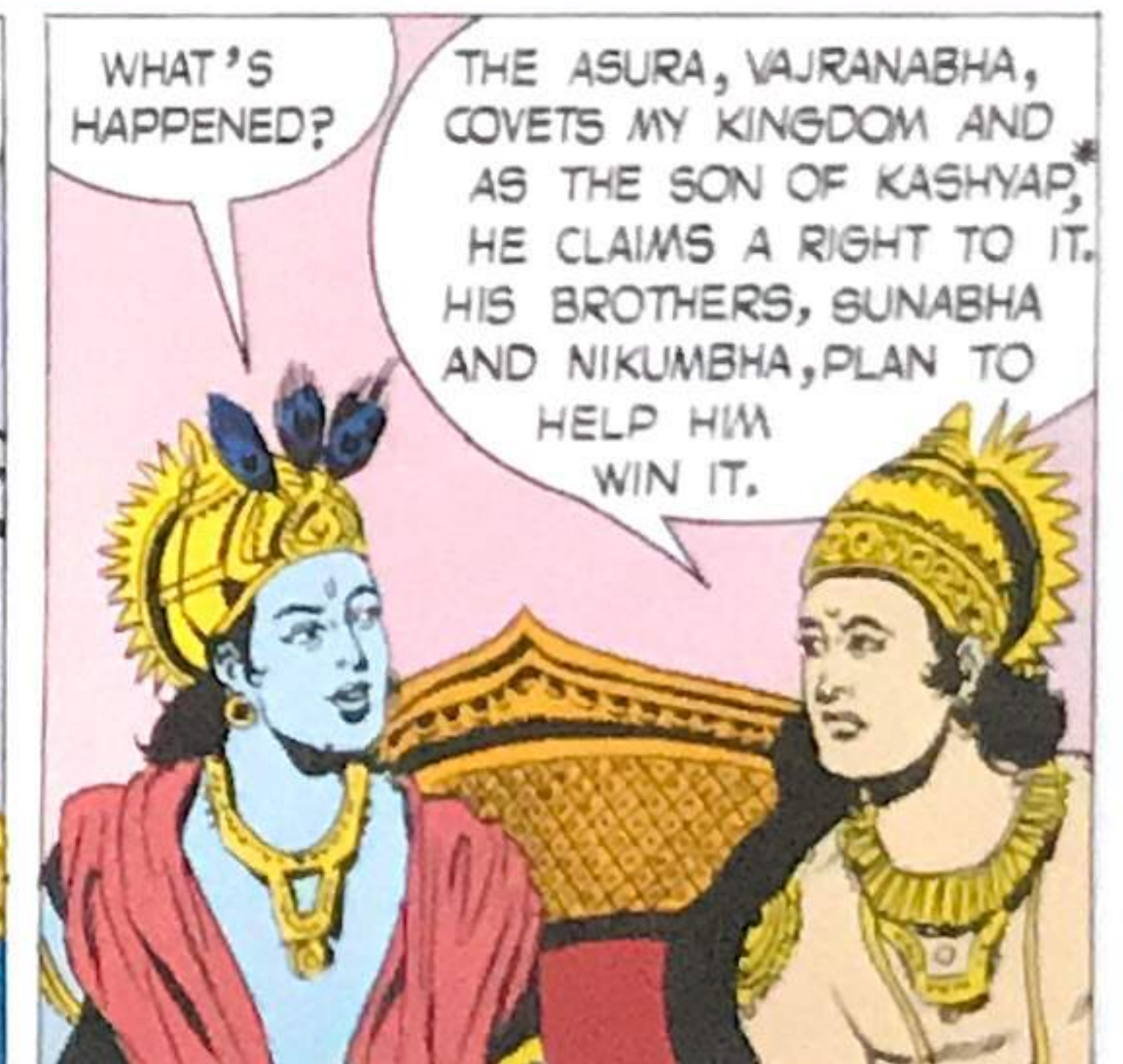
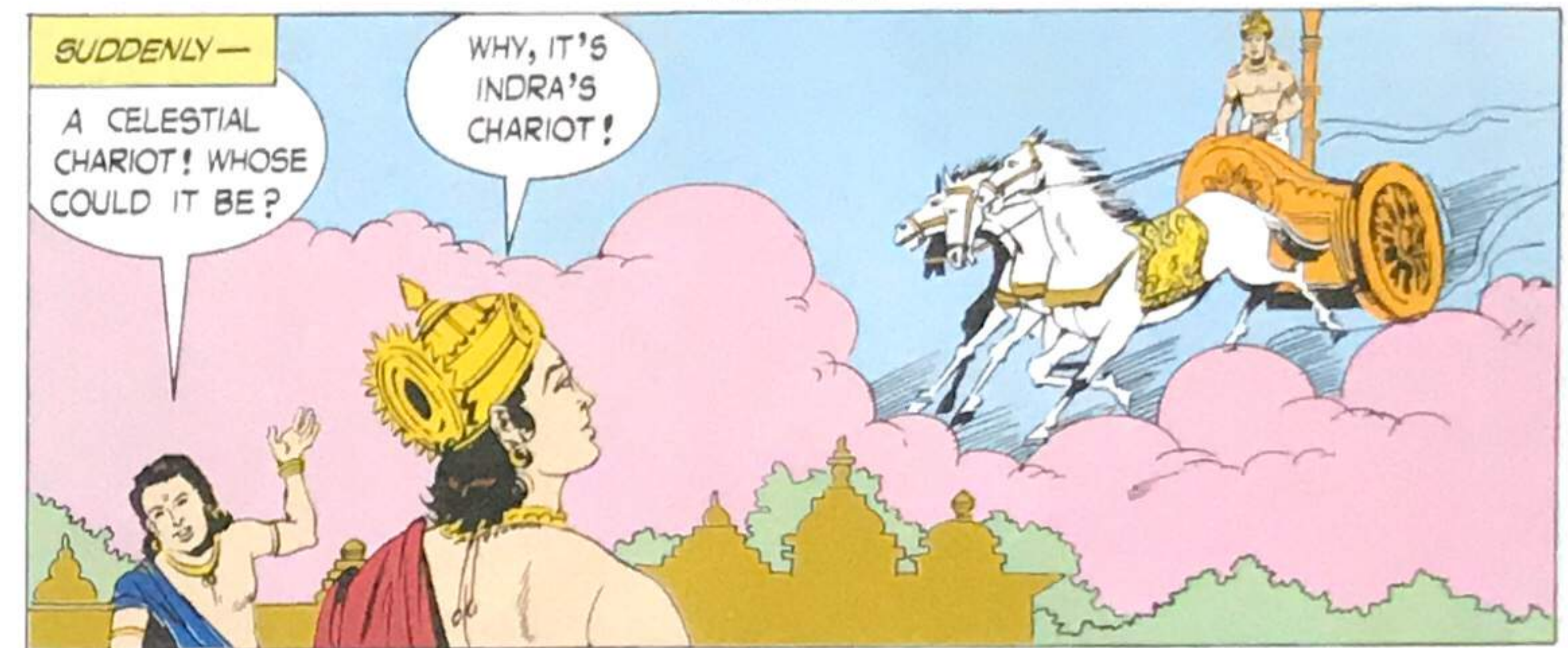
MEANWHILE, NARADA HAD LEFT AND VAJRANABHA SAT BROODING.

IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE THE YADAVA ATTACKS ME. I MUST DO SOMETHING TO PROTECT MYSELF AND MY PEOPLE.





PRADYUMNA, UNAWARE OF ALL THIS, WAS BUSY WITH THE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE SAGES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR THE HORSE SACRIFICE OF VASUDEVA, HIS GRANDFATHER.



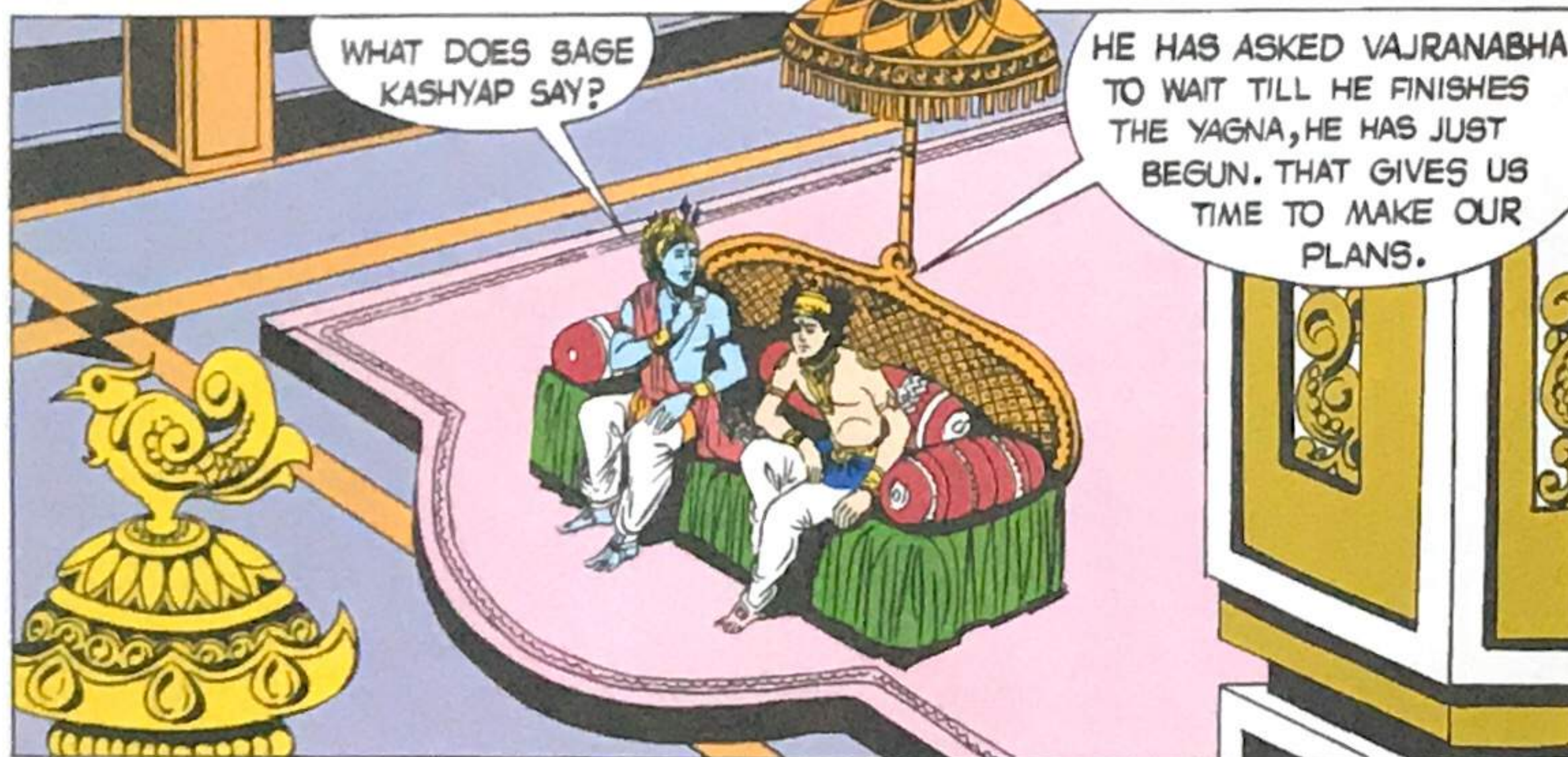
\* VAJRANABHA WAS THE SON OF KASHYAP AND DITI, ADITI'S SISTER





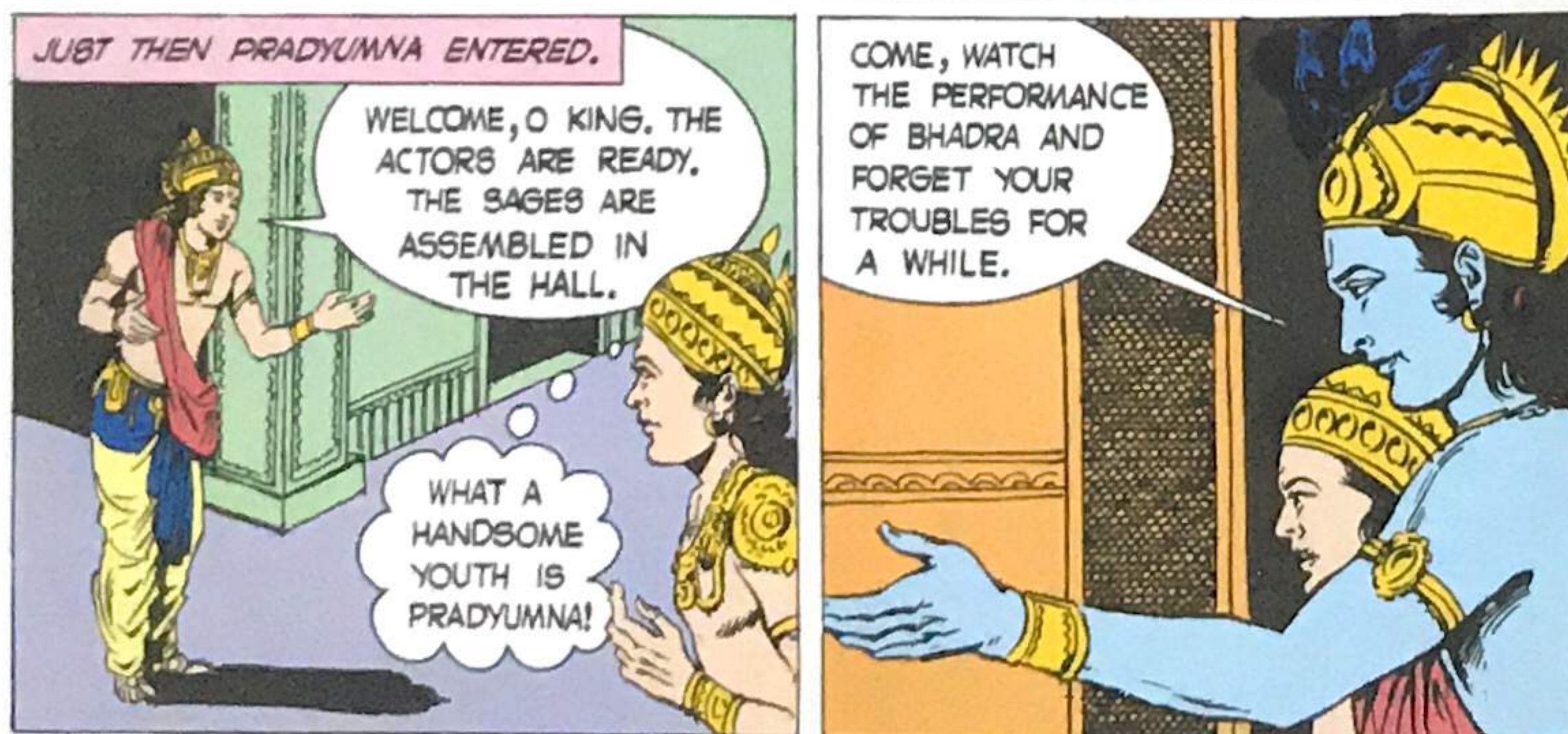
DON'T WORRY, INDRA. LET MY FATHER'S SACRIFICE BE COMPLETED AND I'LL GO AND KILL THE GREEDY ASURA AND HIS BROTHERS.

YOU CAN'T. BRAHMA'S BOON PROTECTS HIM. NOT EVEN AIR ENTERS HIS CITY, UNLESS HE WILLS IT.



WHAT DOES SAGE KASHYAP SAY?

HE HAS ASKED VAJRANABHA TO WAIT TILL HE FINISHES THE YAGNA, HE HAS JUST BEGUN. THAT GIVES US TIME TO MAKE OUR PLANS.



JUST THEN PRADYUMNA ENTERED.

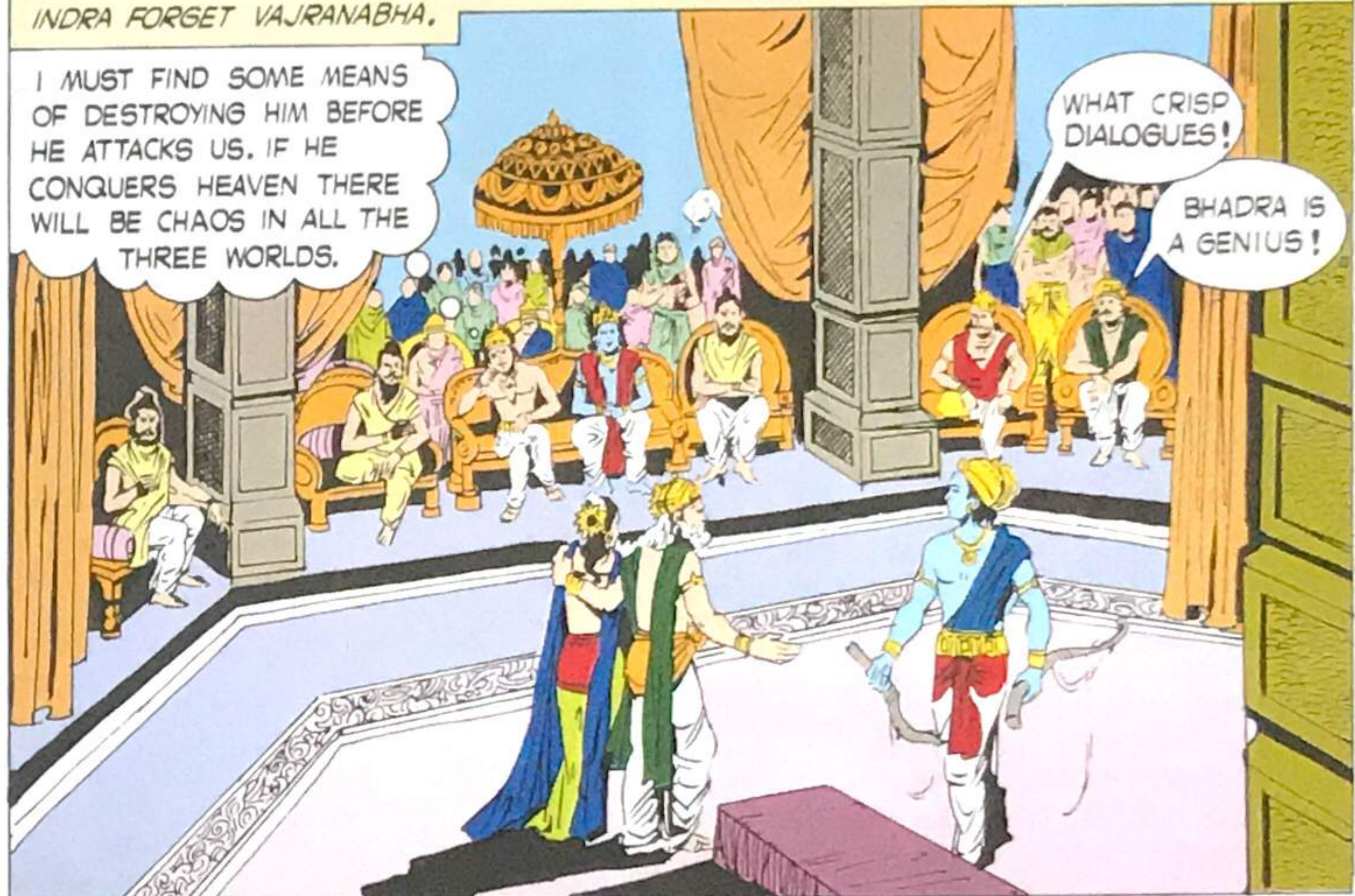
WELCOME, O KING. THE ACTORS ARE READY. THE SAGES ARE ASSEMBLED IN THE HALL.

WHAT A HANDSOME YOUTH IS PRADYUMNA!

COME, WATCH THE PERFORMANCE OF BHADRA AND FORGET YOUR TROUBLES FOR A WHILE.

BUT EVEN THE EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE OF BHADRA AND HIS TROUPE COULD NOT MAKE INDRA FORGET VAJRANABHA.

I MUST FIND SOME MEANS OF DESTROYING HIM BEFORE HE ATTACKS US. IF HE CONQUERS HEAVEN THERE WILL BE CHAOS IN ALL THE THREE WORLDS.



WHAT CRISP DIALOGUES!

BHADRA IS A GENIUS!

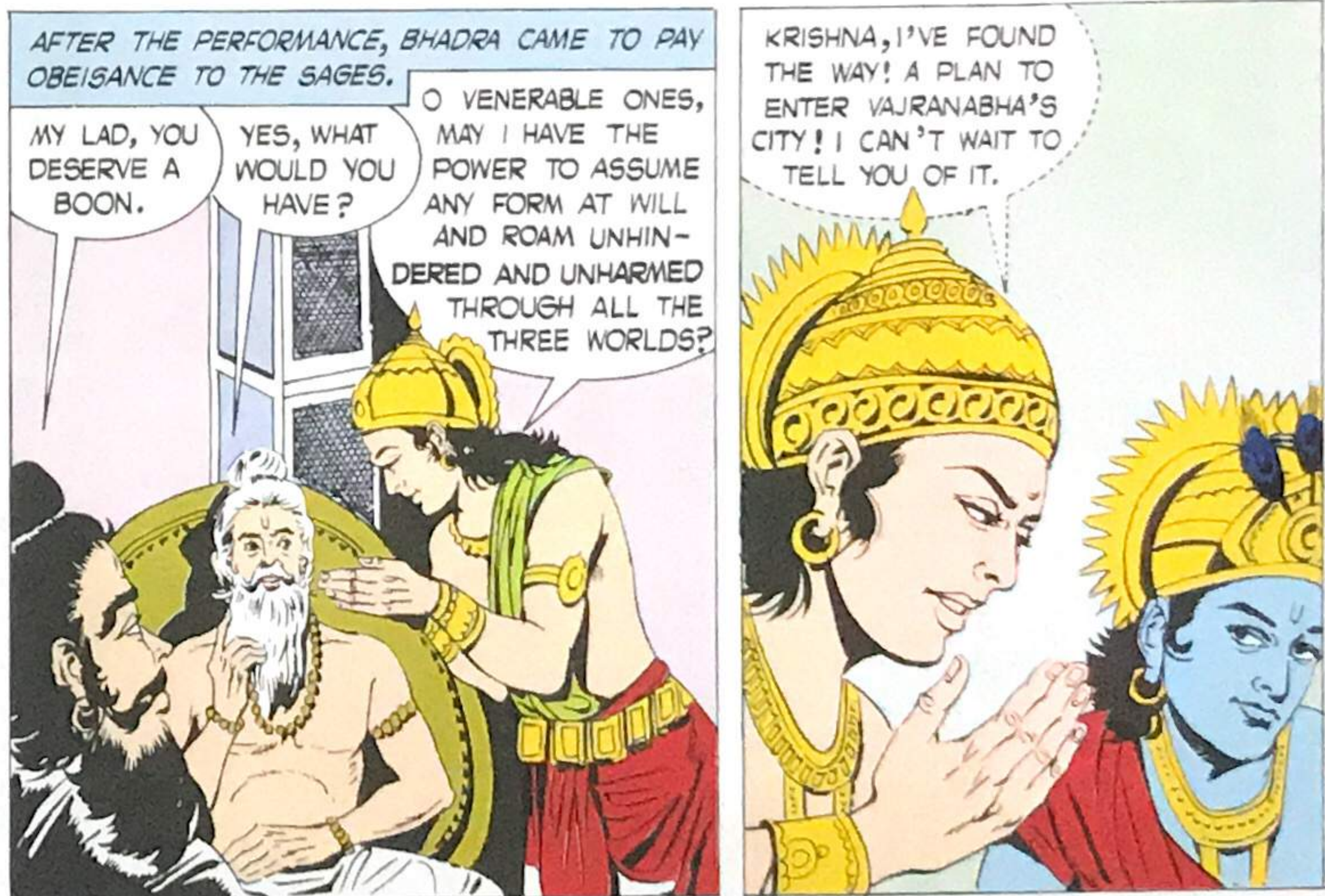
AFTER THE PERFORMANCE, BHADRA CAME TO PAY OBEISANCE TO THE SAGES.

MY LAD, YOU DESERVE A BOON.

YES, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE?

O VENERABLE ONES, MAY I HAVE THE POWER TO ASSUME ANY FORM AT WILL AND ROAM UNHINDERED AND UNHARMED THROUGH ALL THE THREE WORLDS?

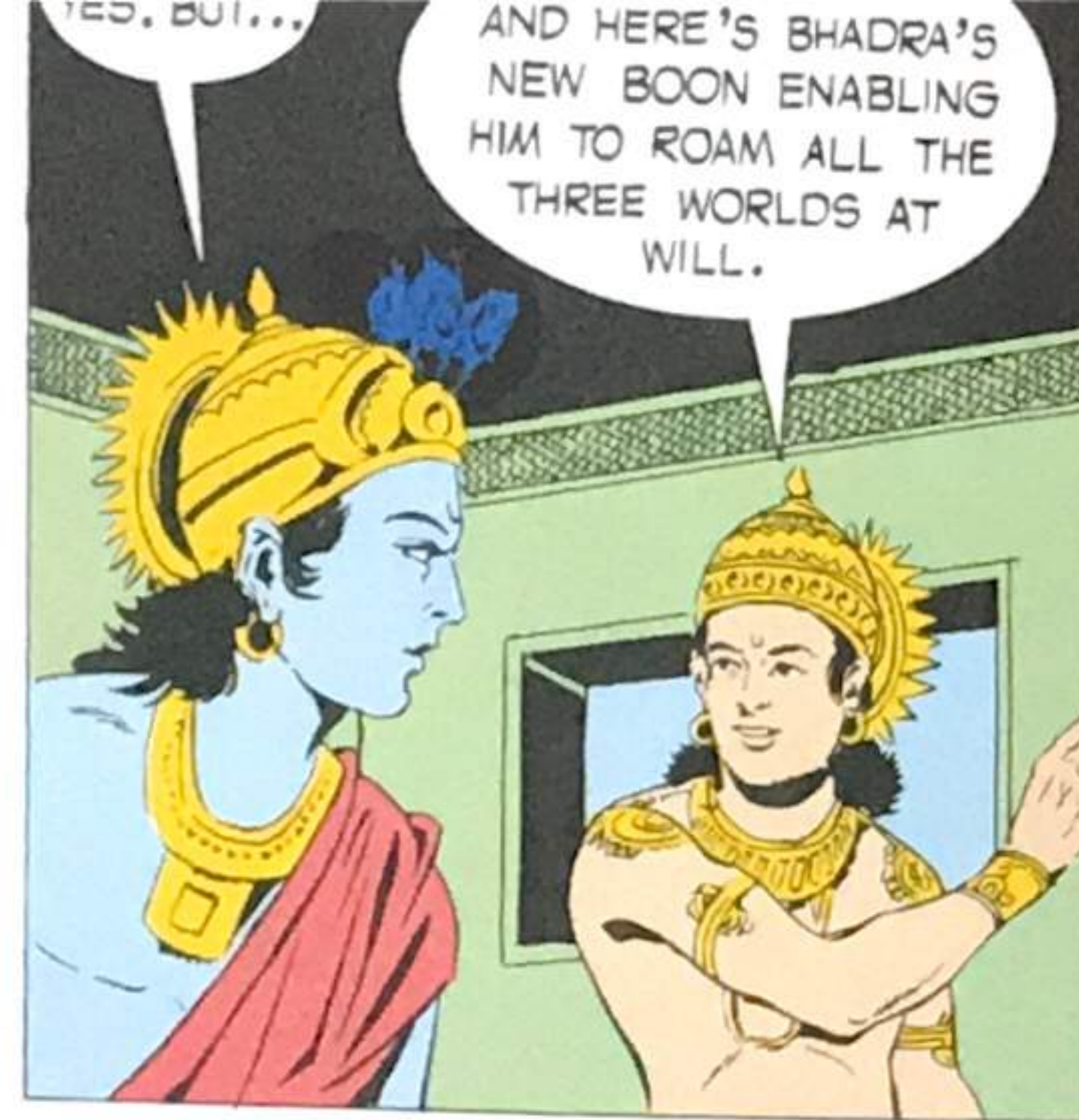
KRISHNA, I'VE FOUND THE WAY! A PLAN TO ENTER VAJRANABHA'S CITY! I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL YOU OF IT.





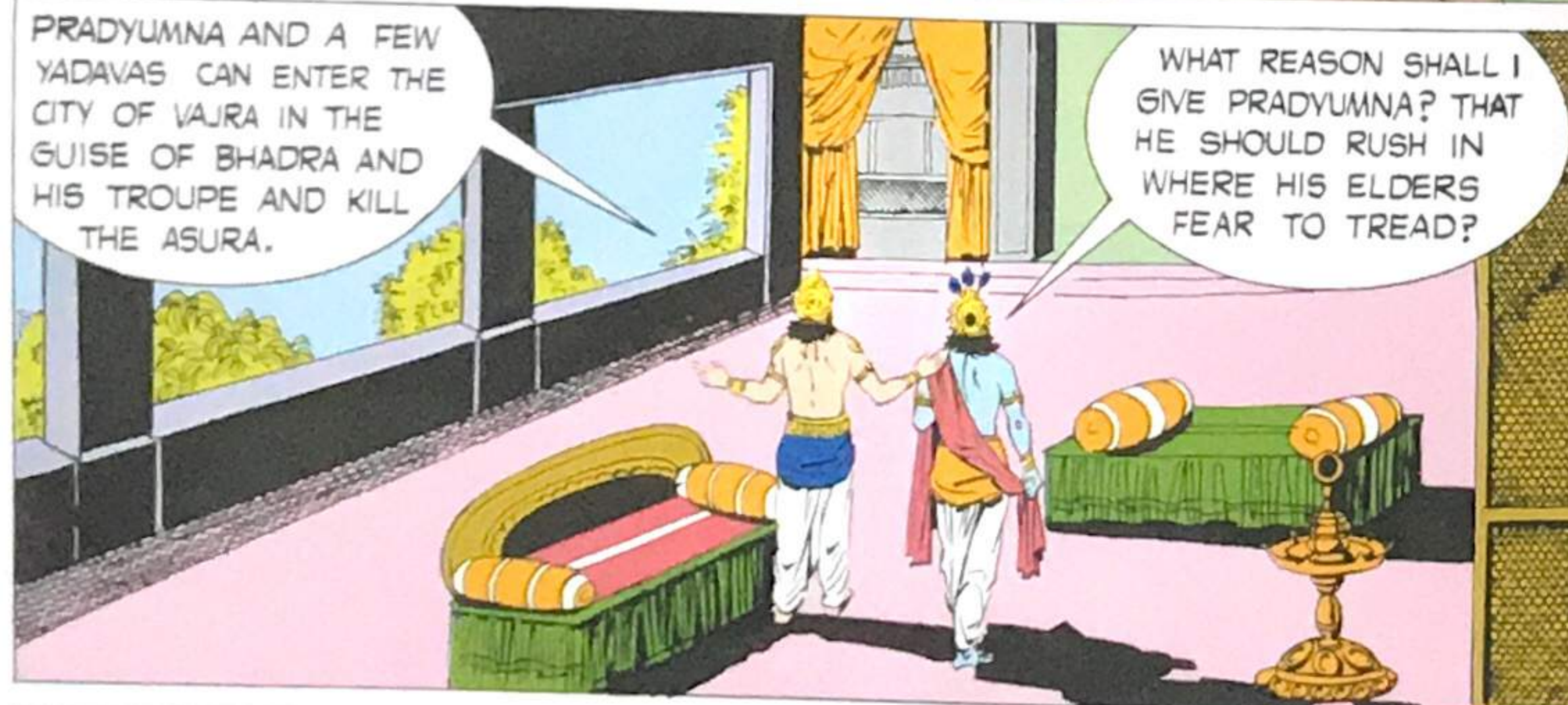


DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT PRADYUMNA, SLAYING SHAMBARA, HAD ACQUIRED THE ASURA'S MAGIC SKILLS? THAT MAYAVATI\* HERSELF TRAINED HIM TO BE A PERFECT ILLUSIONIST?



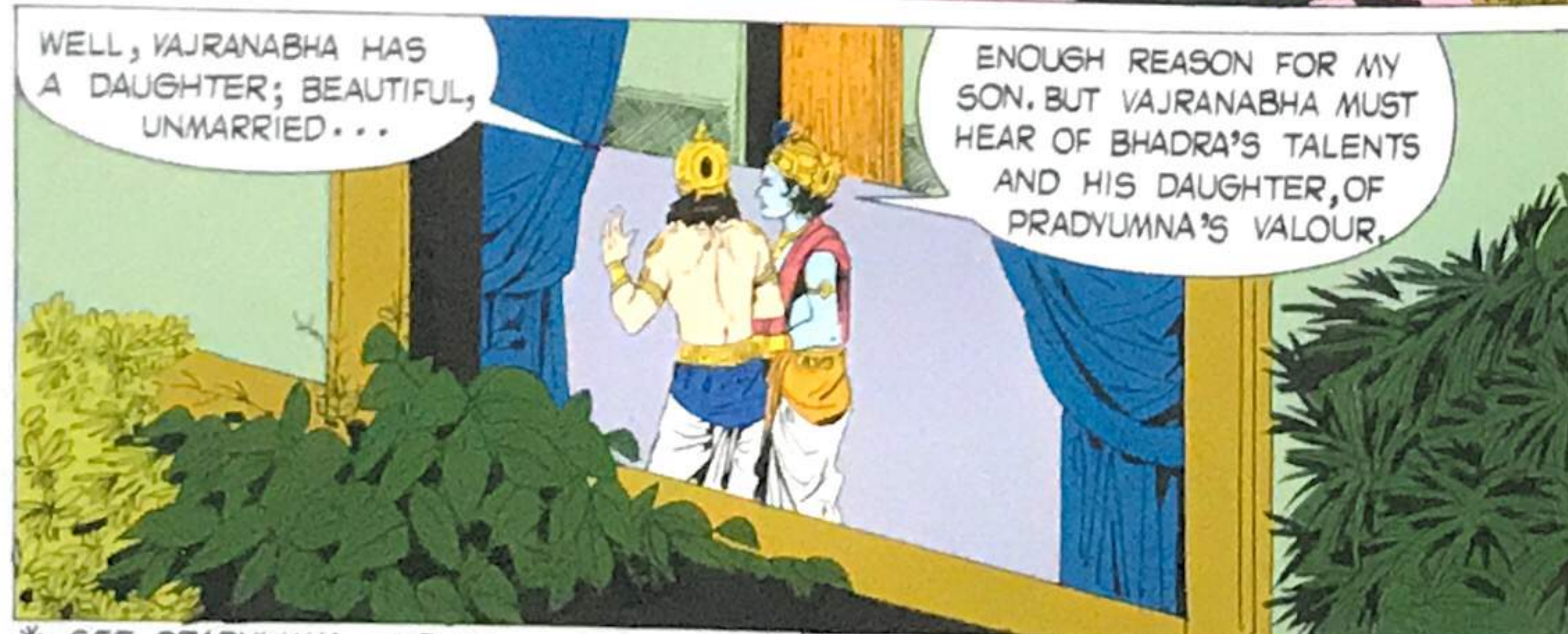
YES, BUT...

AND HERE'S BHADRA'S NEW BOON ENABLING HIM TO ROAM ALL THE THREE WORLDS AT WILL.



PRADYUMNA AND A FEW YADAVAS CAN ENTER THE CITY OF VAJRA IN THE GUISE OF BHADRA AND HIS TROUPE AND KILL THE ASURA.

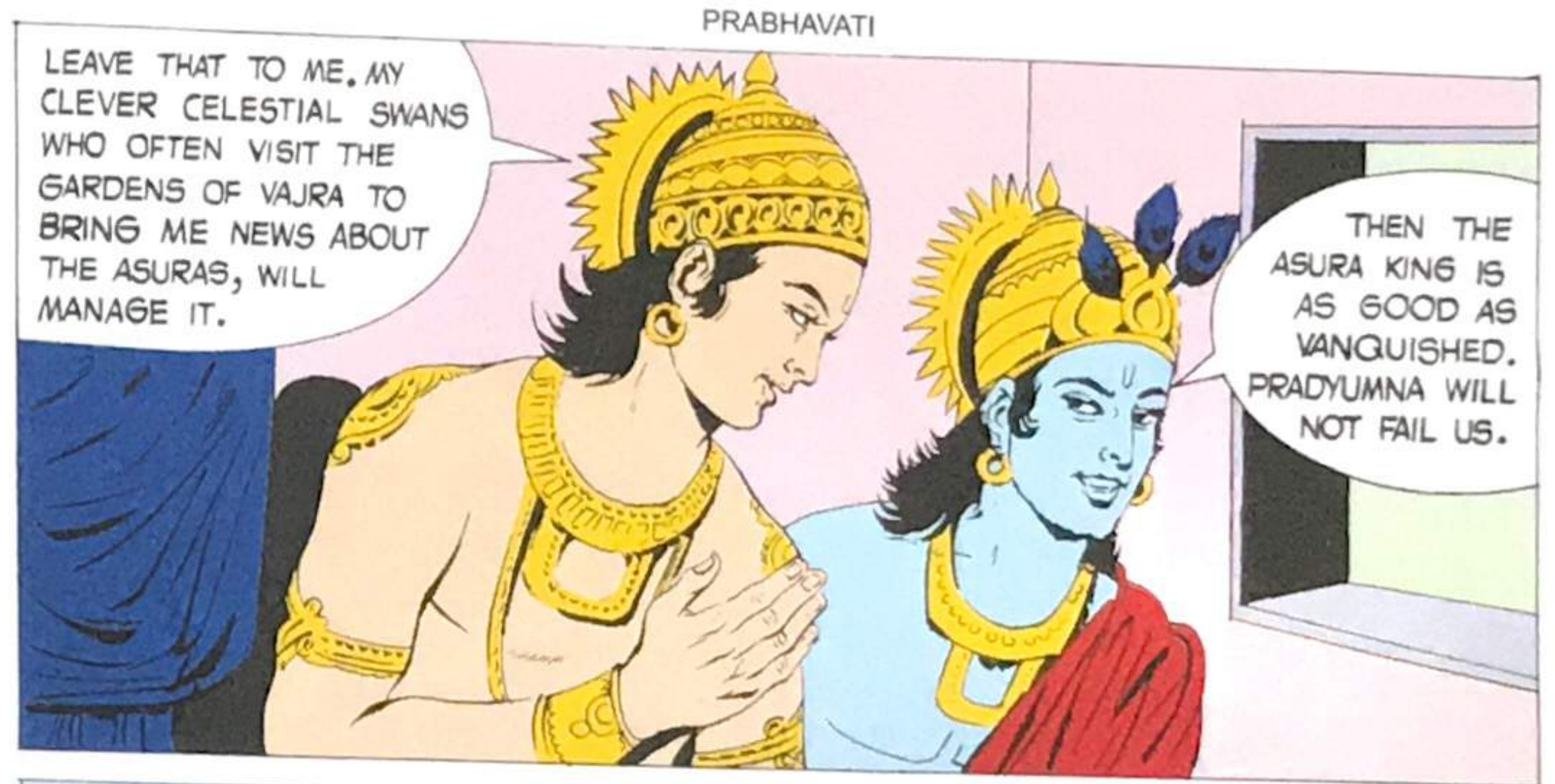
WHAT REASON SHALL I GIVE PRADYUMNA? THAT HE SHOULD RUSH IN WHERE HIS ELDERS FEAR TO TREAD?



WELL, VAJARANABHA HAS A DAUGHTER; BEAUTIFUL, UNMARRIED...

ENOUGH REASON FOR MY SON. BUT VAJARANABHA MUST HEAR OF BHADRA'S TALENTS AND HIS DAUGHTER, OF PRADYUMNA'S VALOUR.

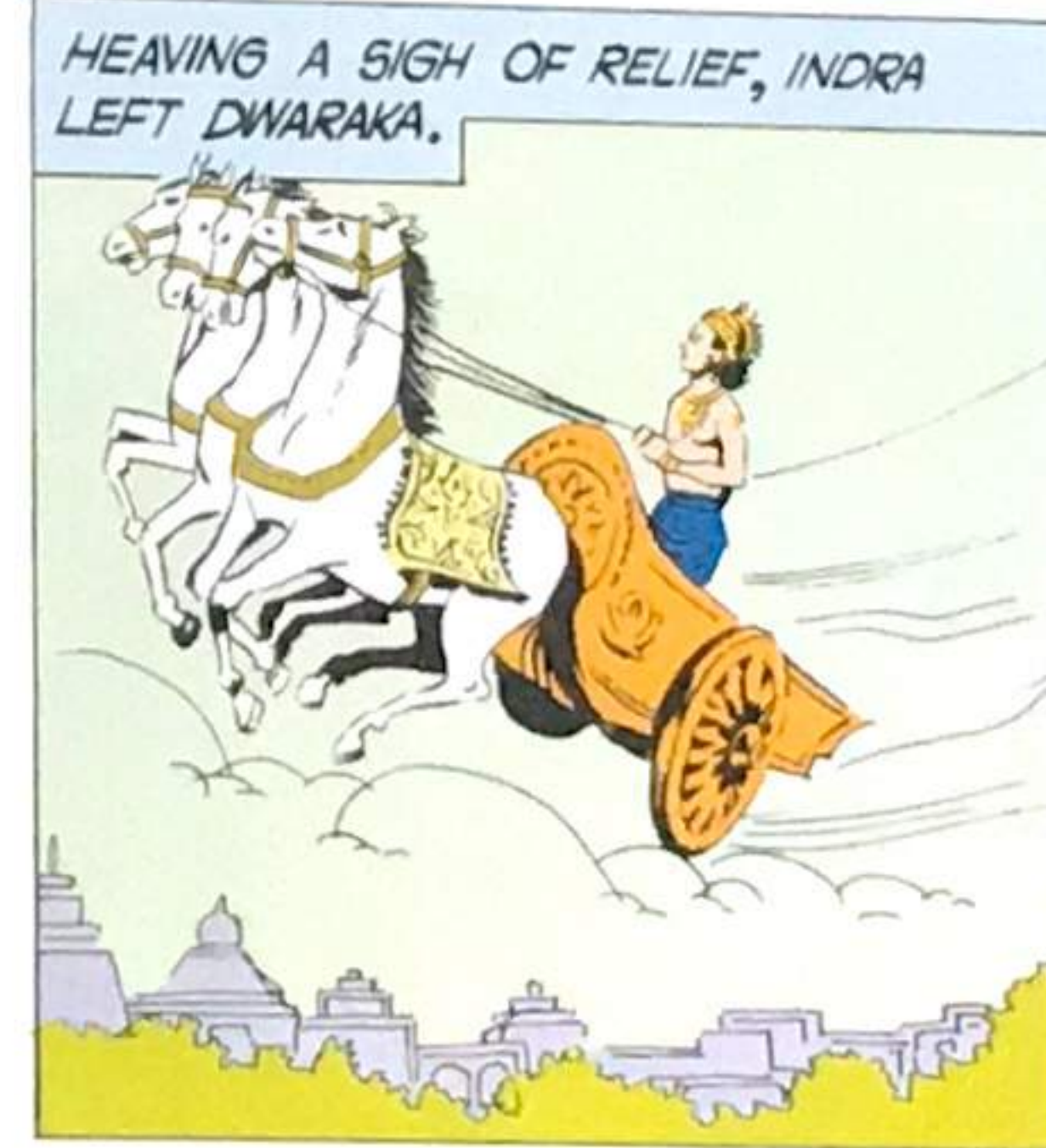
\* GEE PRADYUMNA — NO. 760



PRABHAVATI

LEAVE THAT TO ME. MY CLEVER CELESTIAL SWANS WHO OFTEN VISIT THE GARDENS OF VAJRA TO BRING ME NEWS ABOUT THE ASURAS, WILL MANAGE IT.

THEN THE ASURA KING IS AS GOOD AS VANQUISHED. PRADYUMNA WILL NOT FAIL US.



HEAVING A SIGH OF RELIEF, INDRA LEFT DWARAKA.



AS SOON AS HE REACHED HIS PALACE, INDRA SENT FOR THE CELESTIAL SWANS.

TO SERVE OUR ENDS, YOU HID YOUR POWER OF SPEECH FROM THE ASURAS. USE IT NOW AND HELP ME FINISH OUR ENEMY.

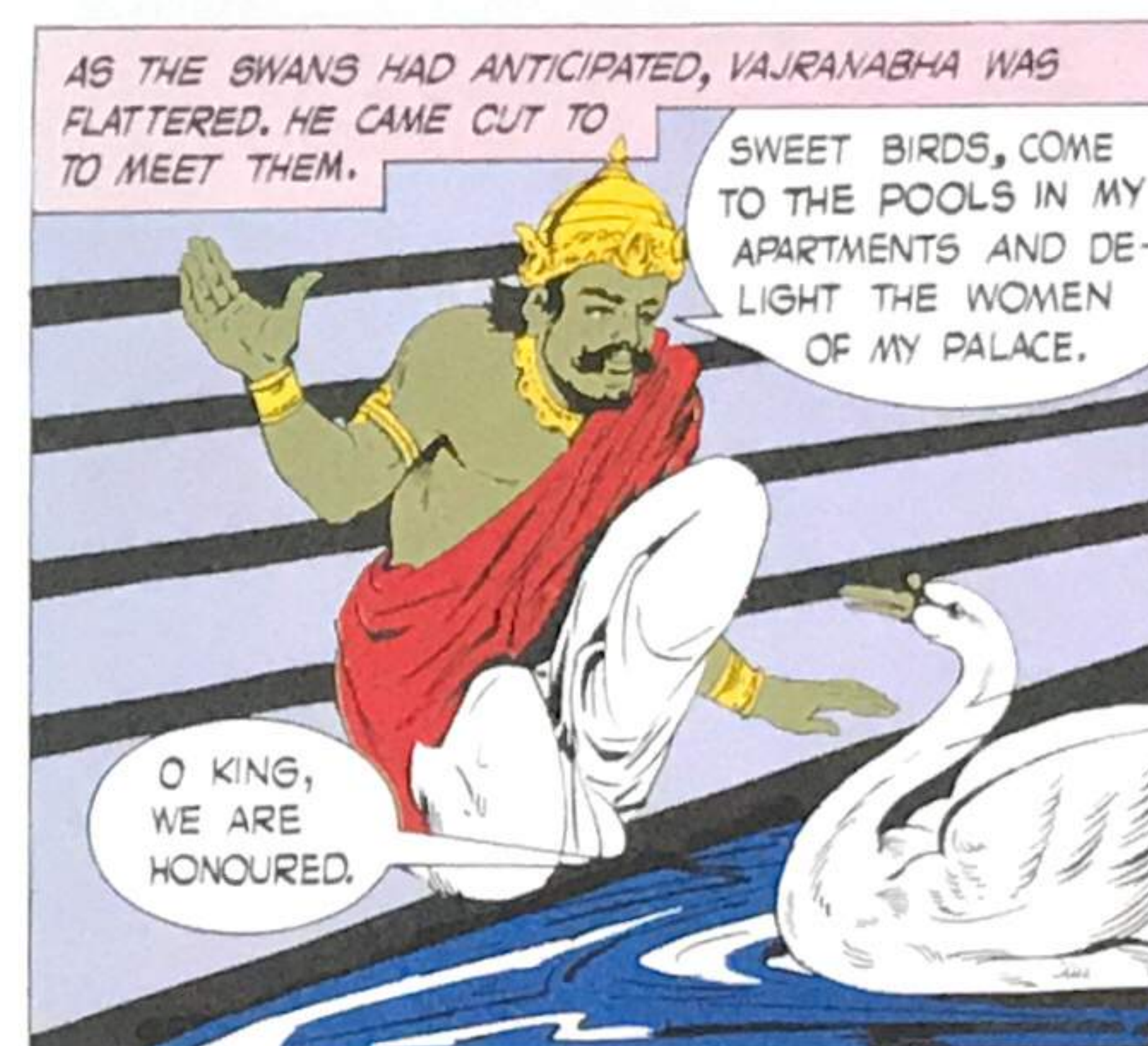
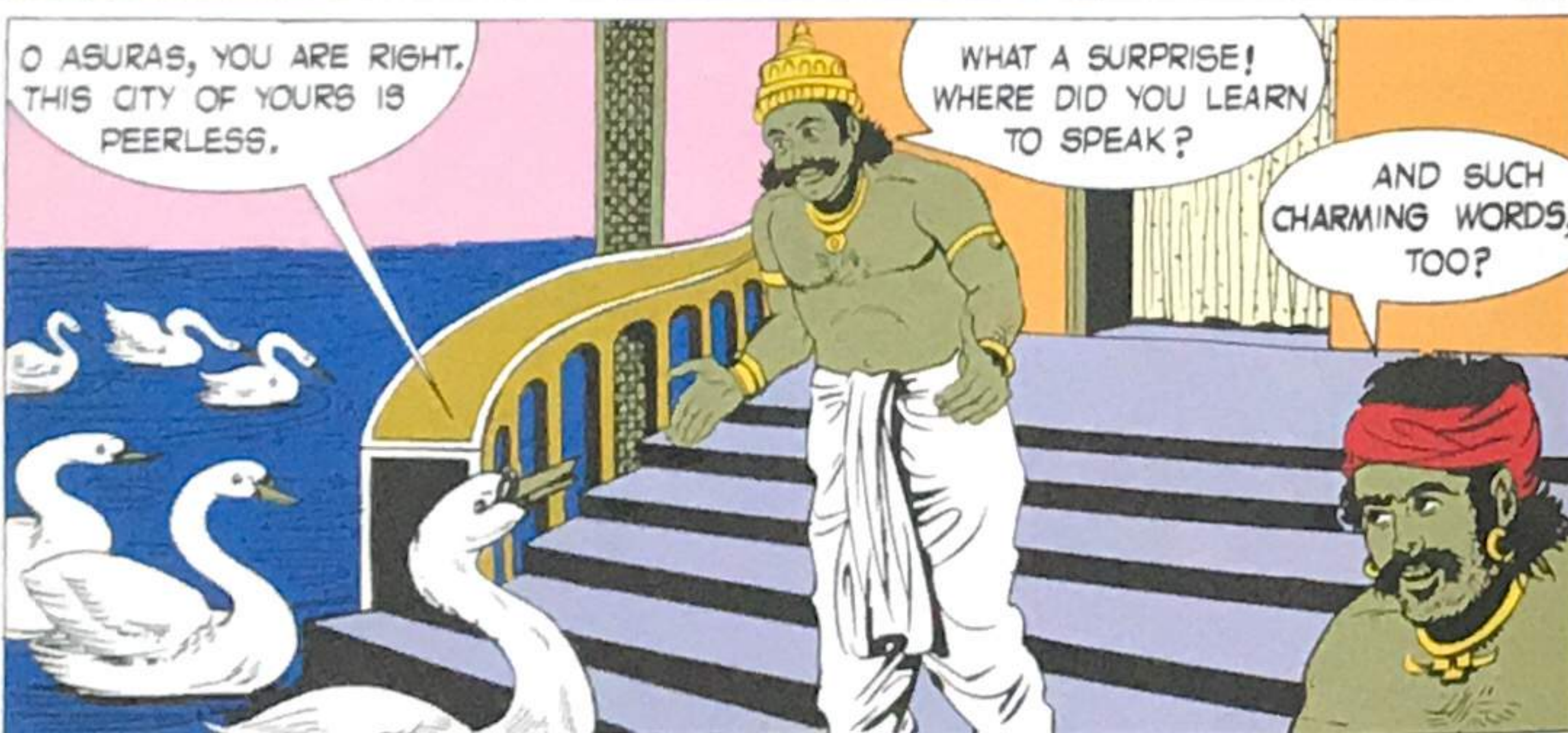
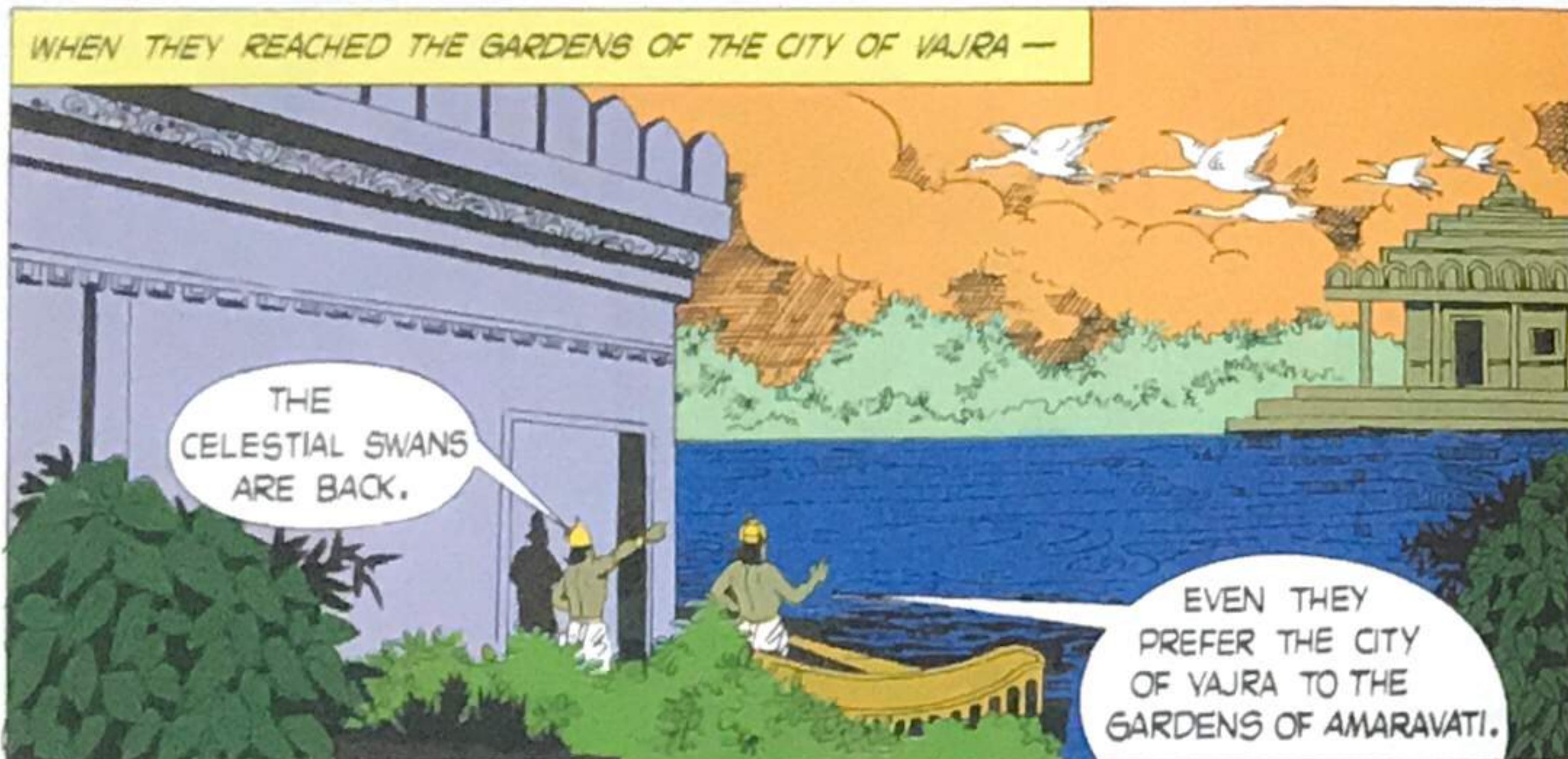


AND INDRA TOLD THEM WHAT THEY SHOULD DO.

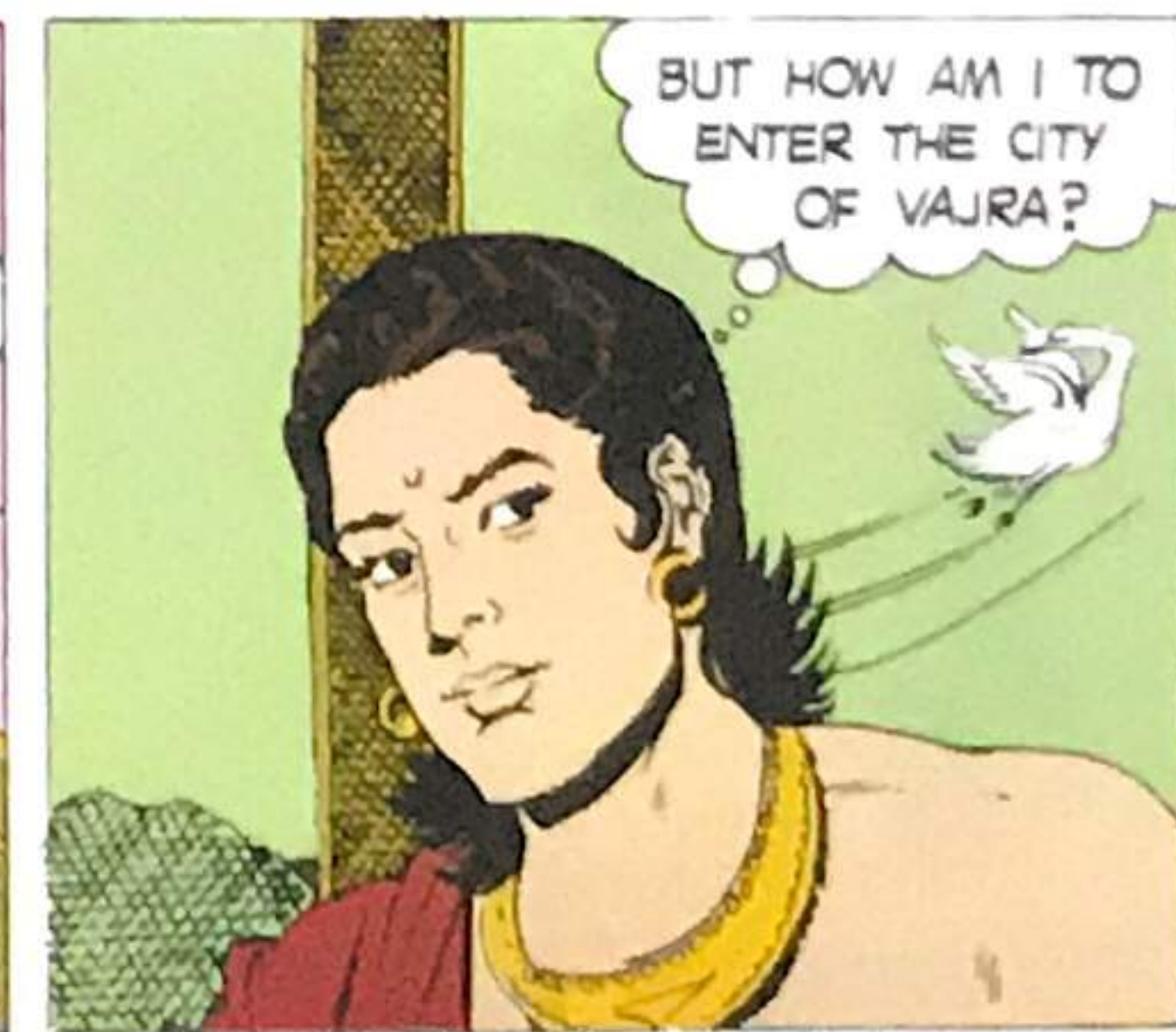
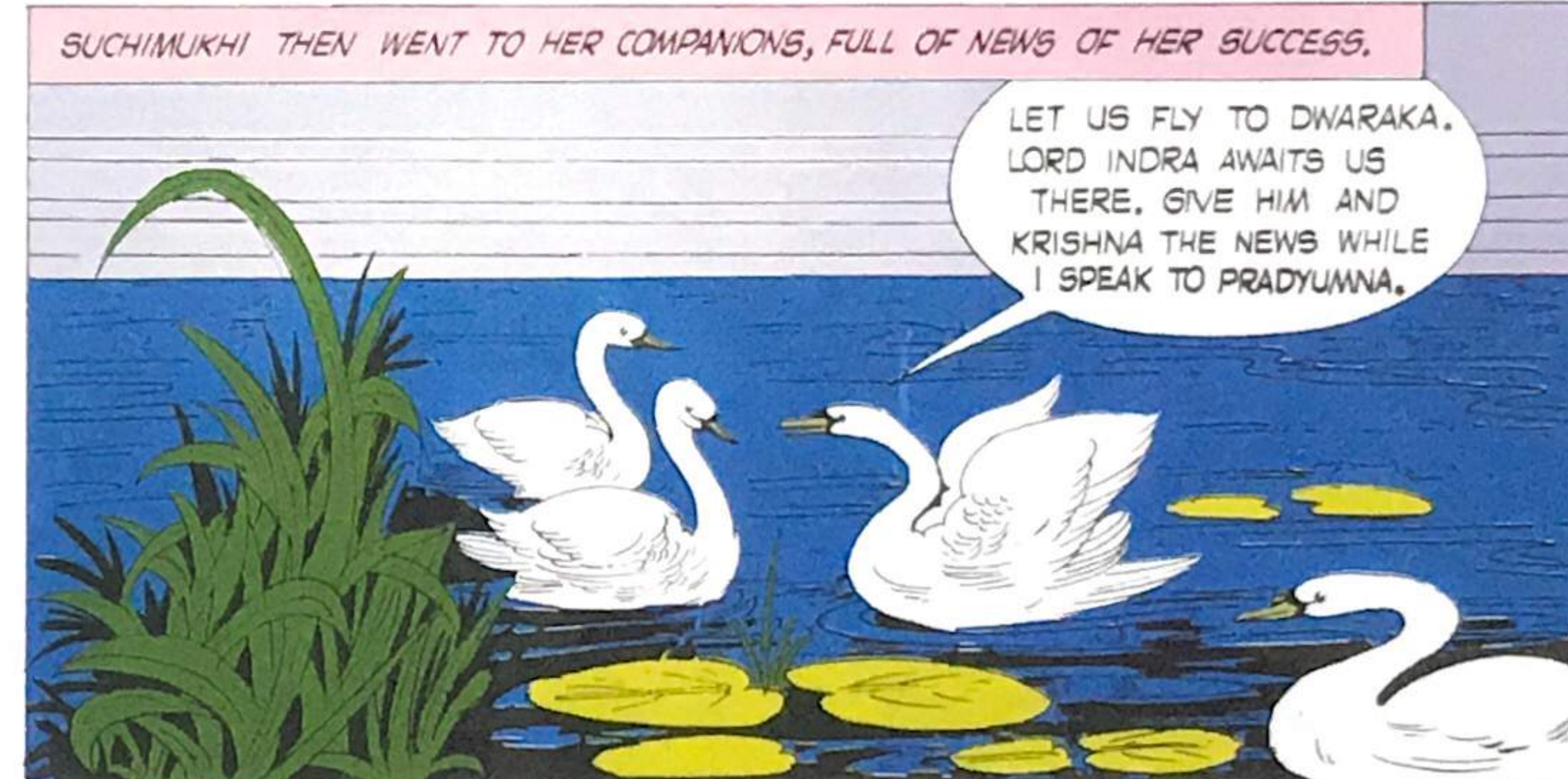
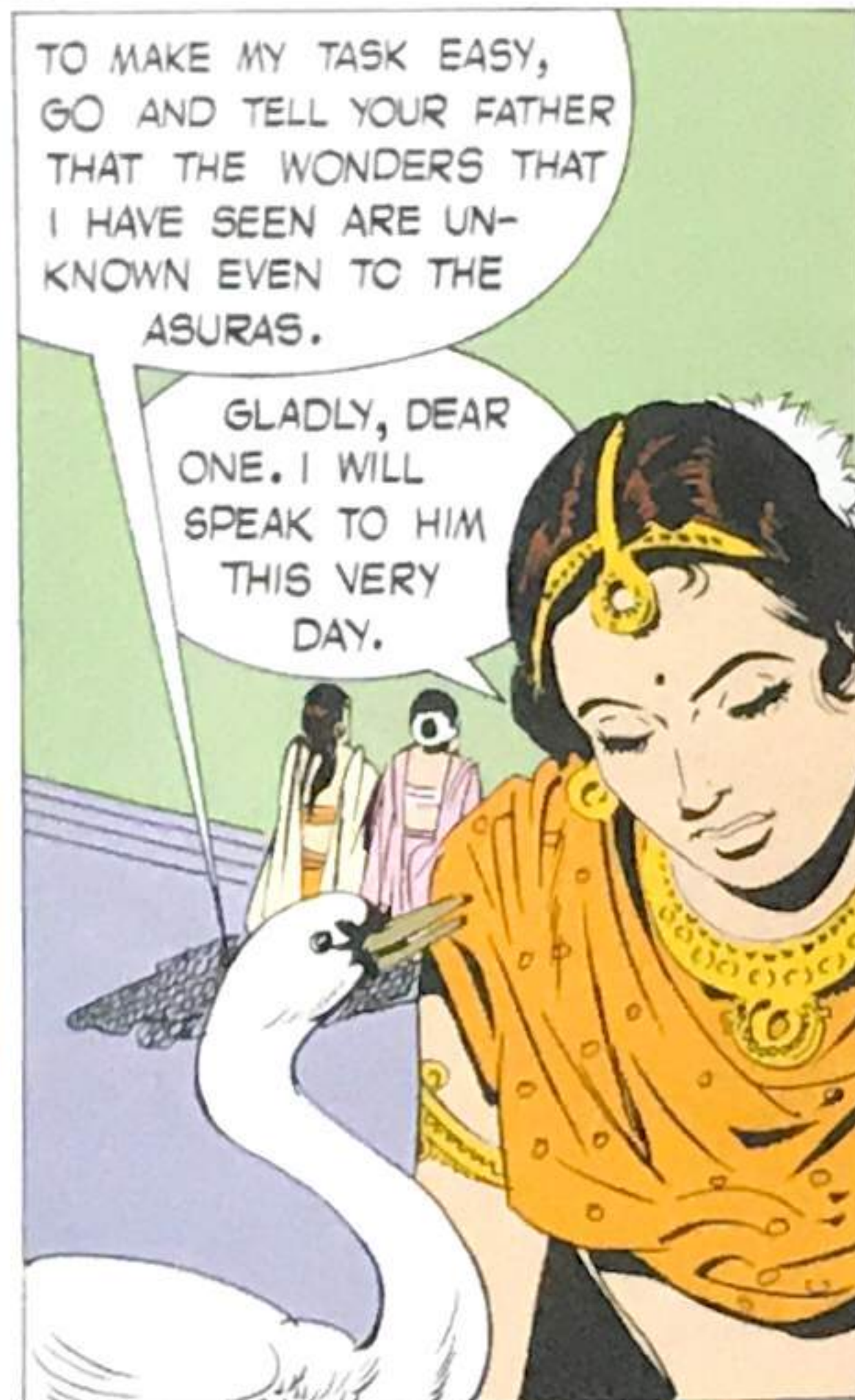
...YOU MUST NOT REST TILL OUR END IS ACHIEVED.



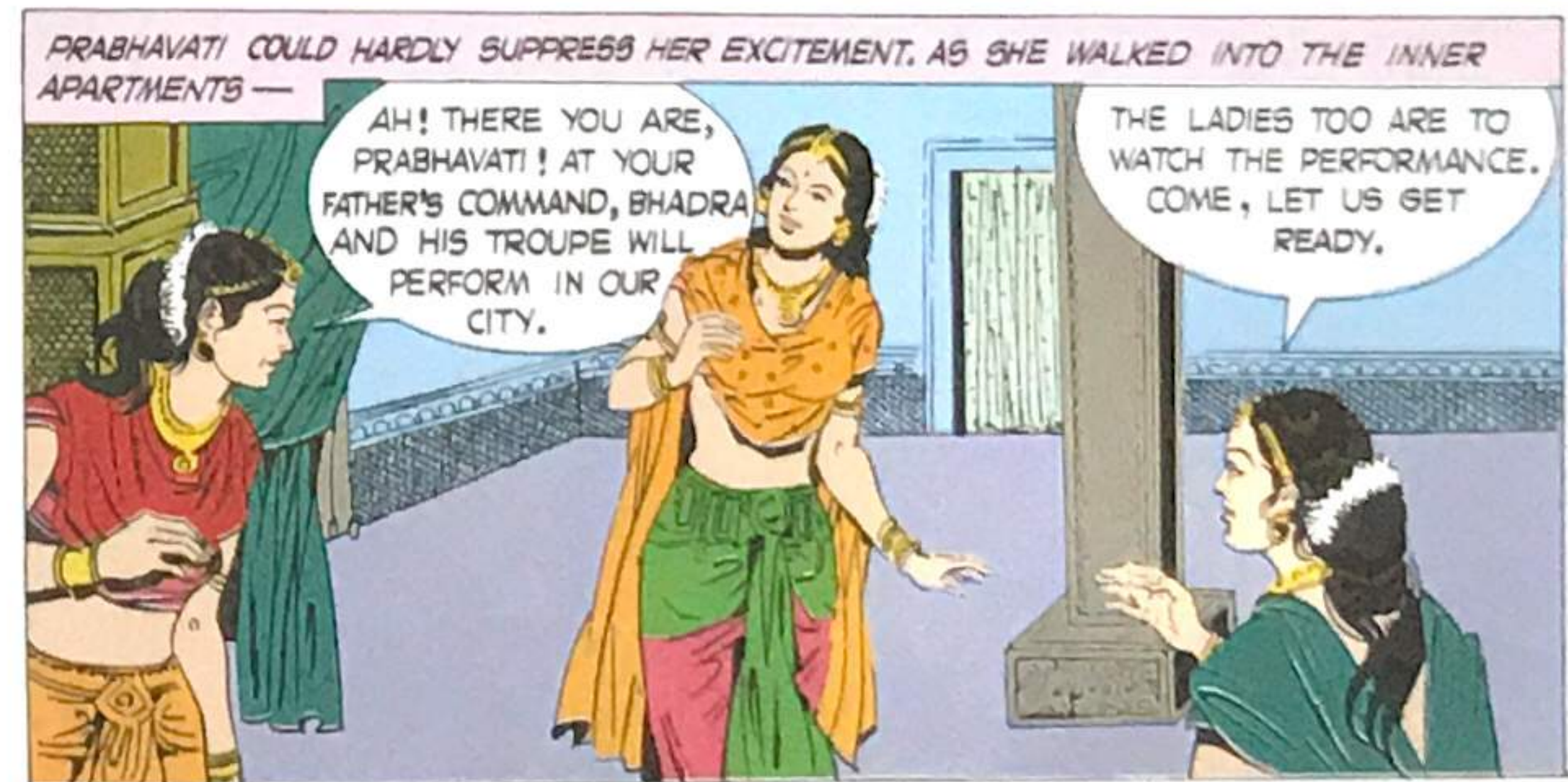
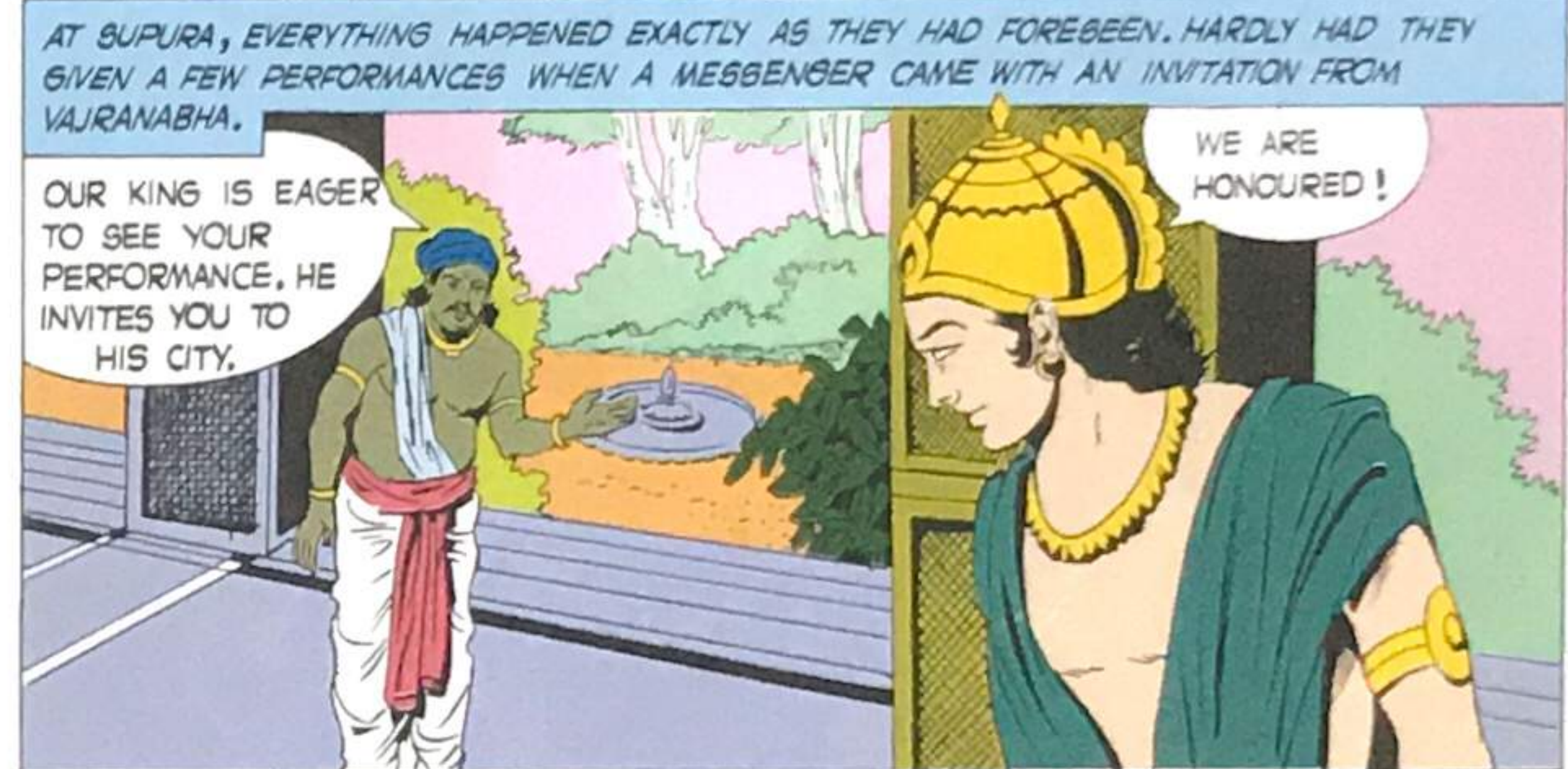
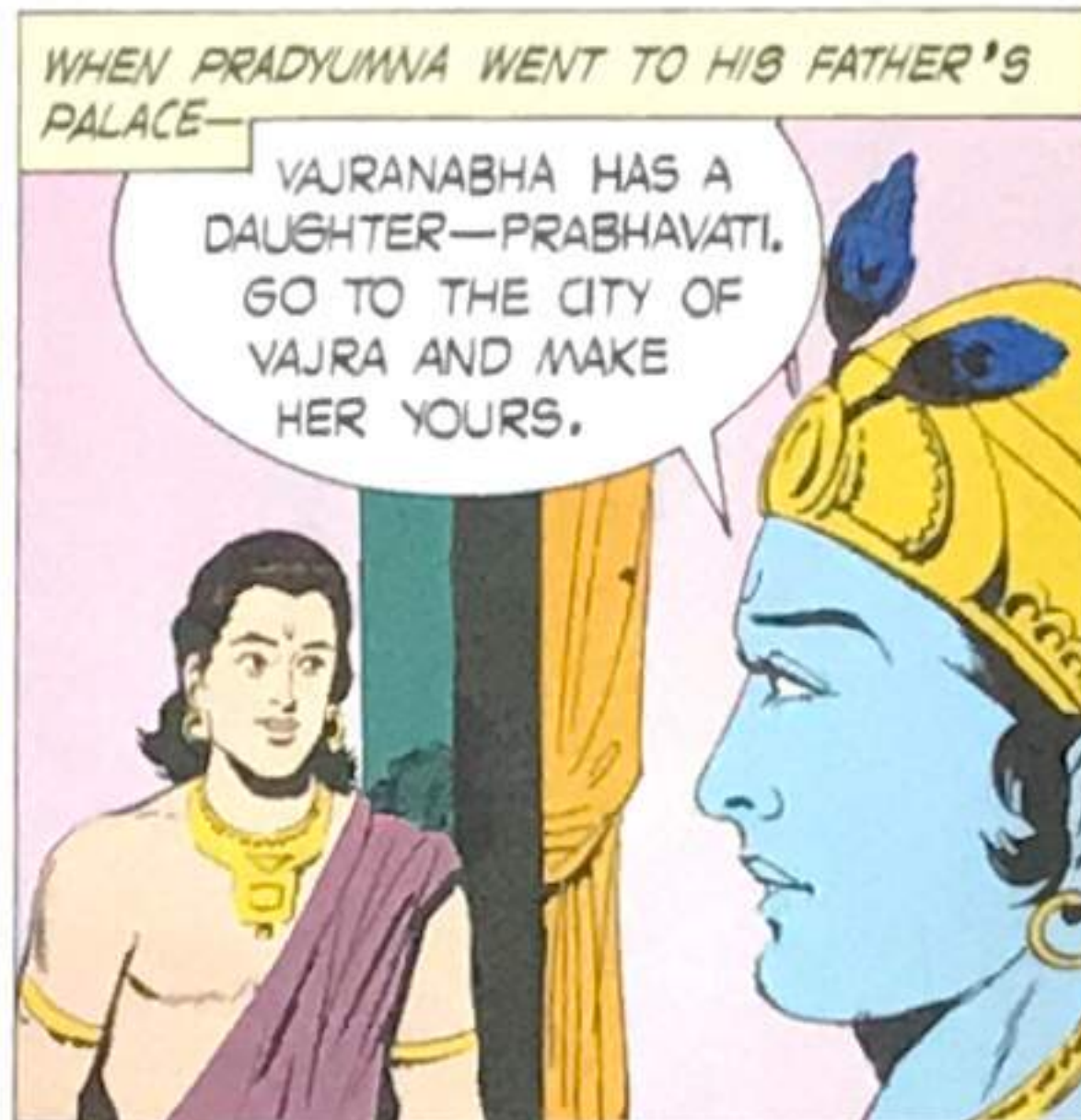














THAT EVENING, PRABHAVATI WATCHED SPELLBOUND AS PRADYUMNA SKILFULLY RENDERED HIS ROLE, BETTERING BHADRA HIMSELF.



AS SOON AS THE PERFORMANCE WAS OVER, THE TROUPE RETIRED TO THE PALACE SPECIALLY BUILT FOR THEM. AS PRADYUMNA RELAXED, SUCHIMUKHI FLEW IN.



BEFORE I SHOW MYSELF TO HER, I MUST MAKE SURE THAT SHE LOVES ME.



SUDDENLY, A MAID PASSING BY CAUGHT HIS ATTENTION.



AS THE MAID WALKED AWAY, PRADYUMNA TURNED HIMSELF INTO A BEETLE...



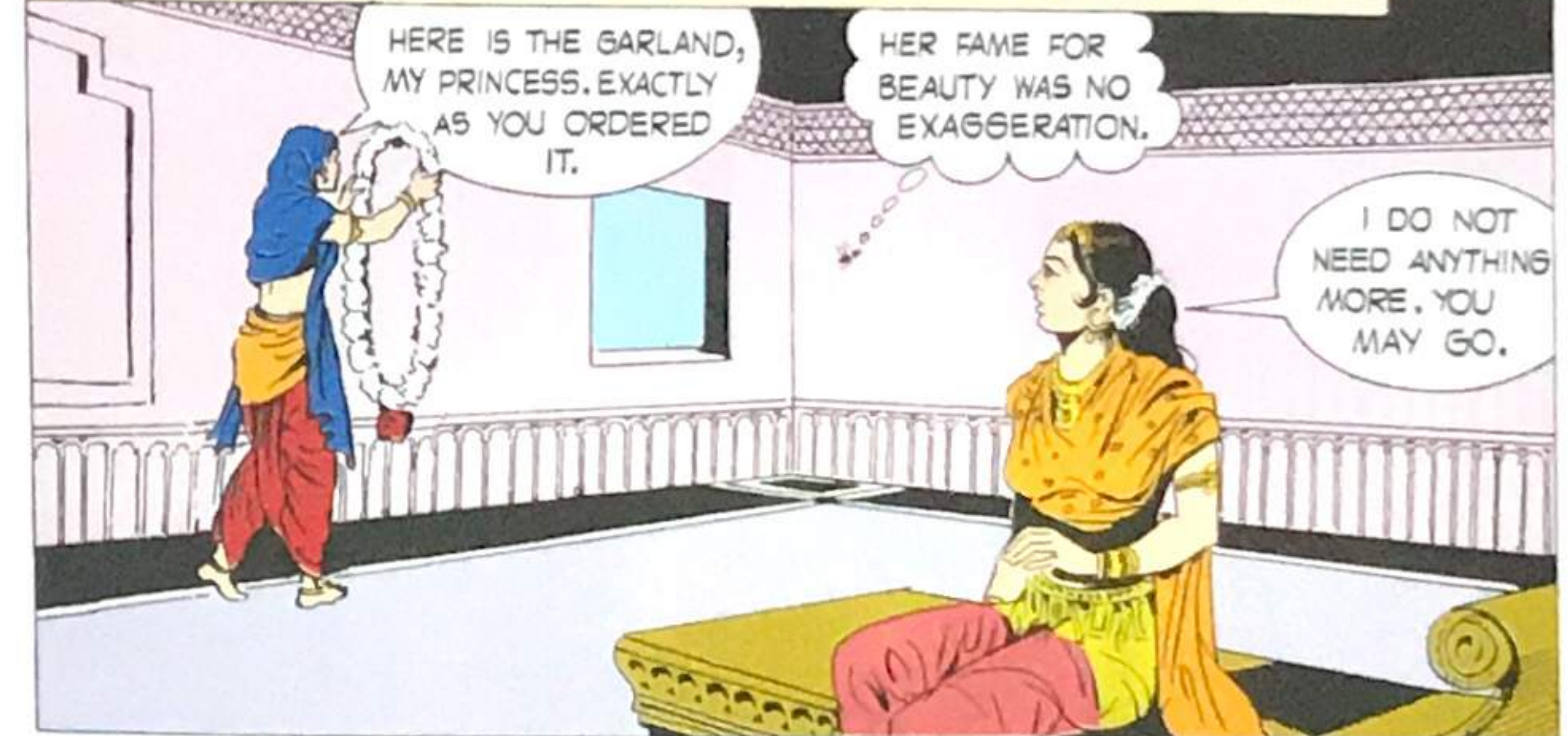
...AND FLYING TOWARDS THE MAID...



...PERCHED ON THE GARLAND.



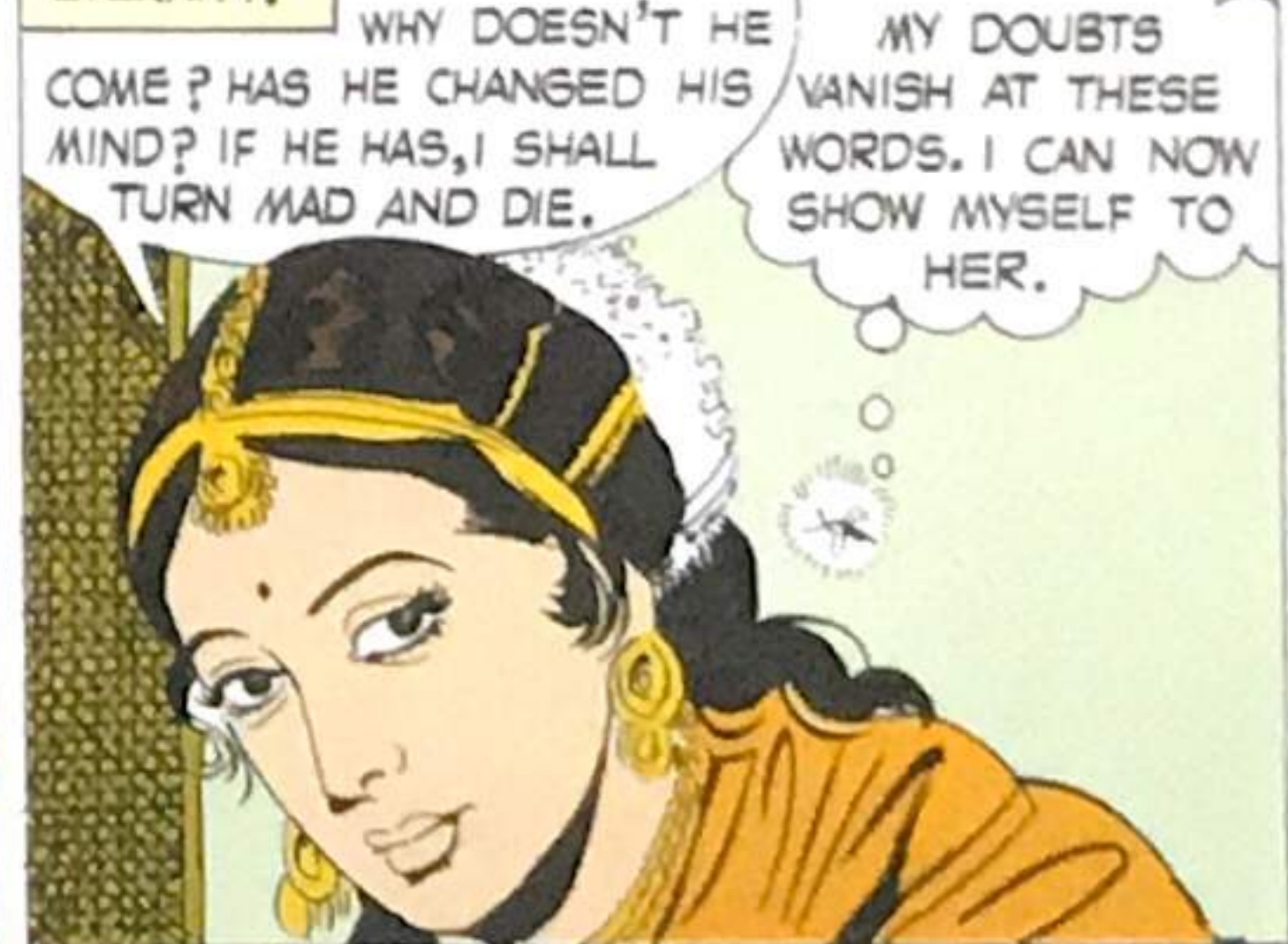
THE MAID ENTERED THE PRINCESS'S CHAMBER AND LEFT THE GARLAND ON A NAIL.



AS THE MAID LEFT, SUCHIMUKHI FLEW IN.



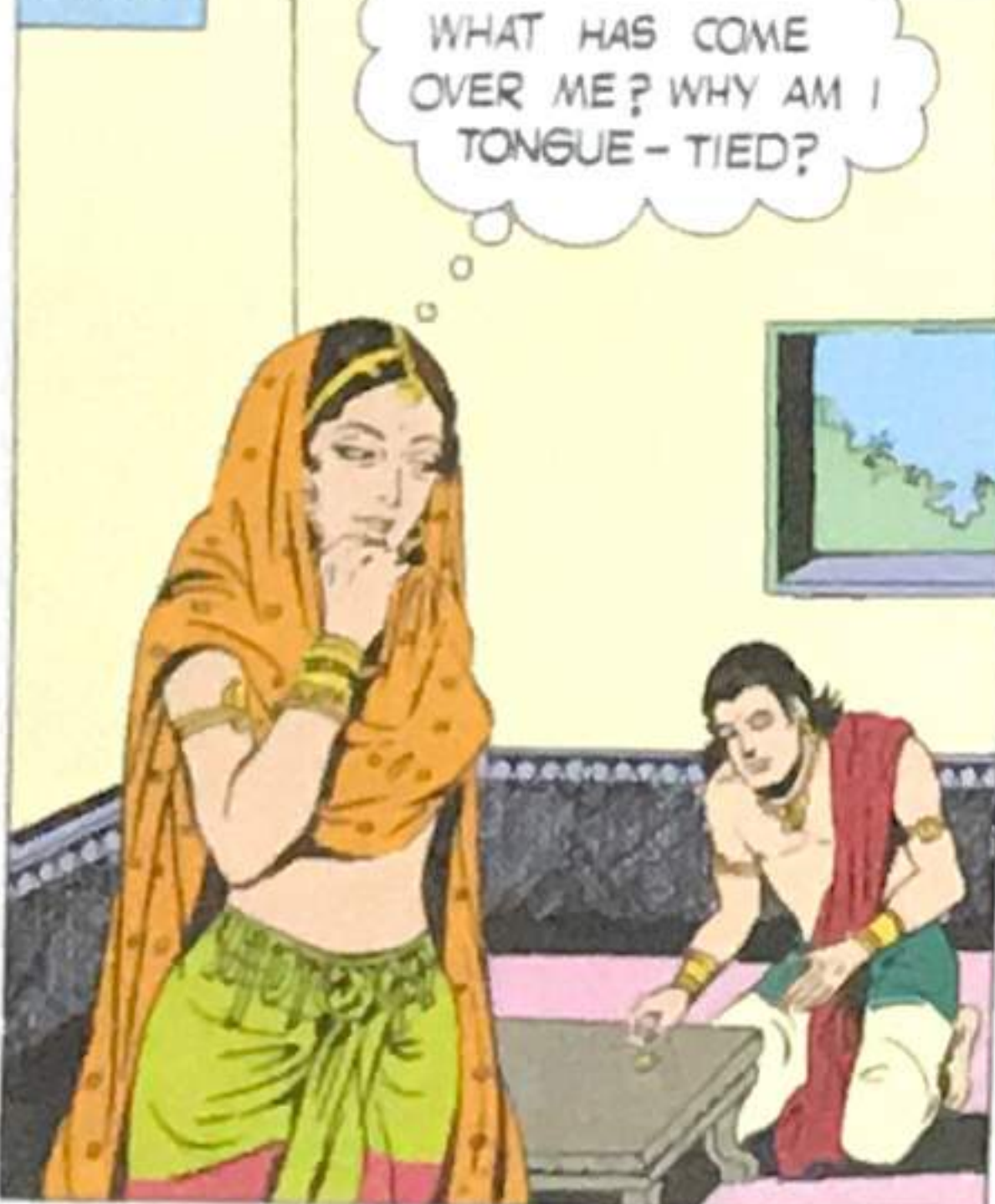
TO PRABHAVATI, EACH MINUTE SEEMED AN ETERNITY.







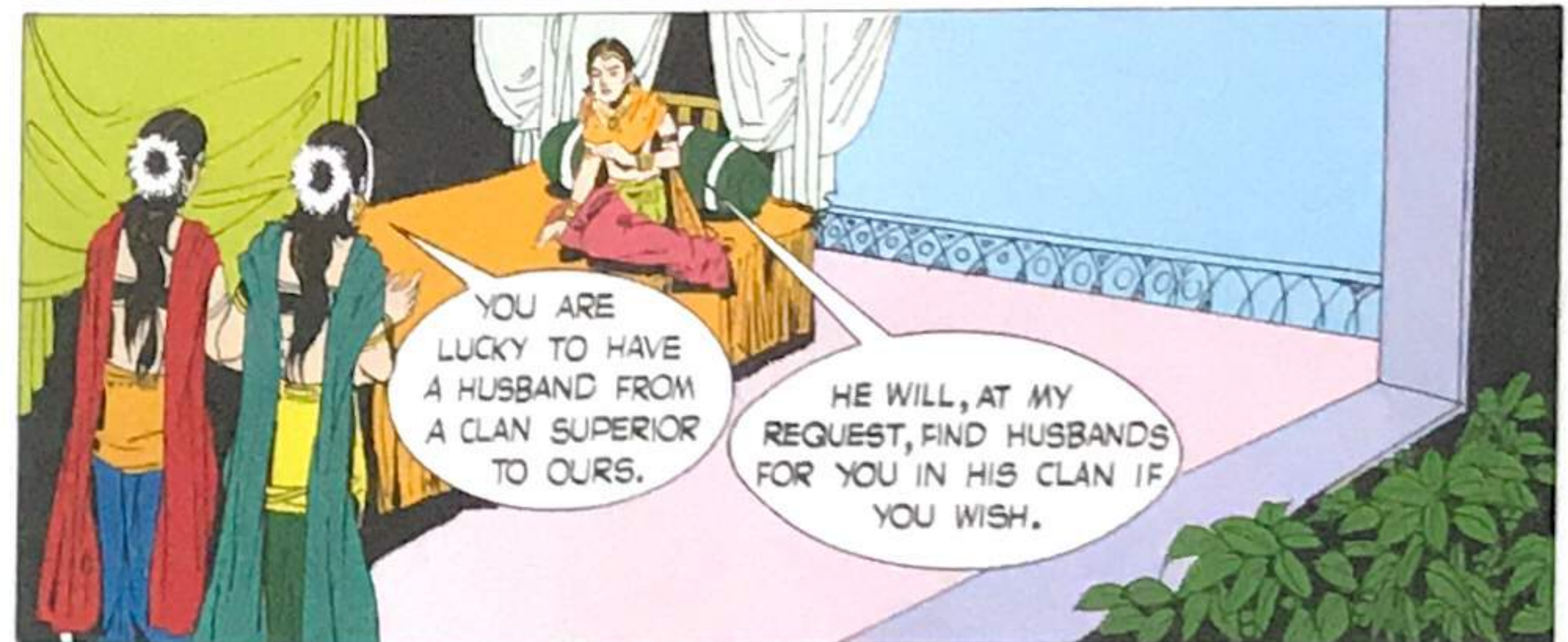
PRABHAVATI COULD ONLY NOD HER HEAD SHYLY.



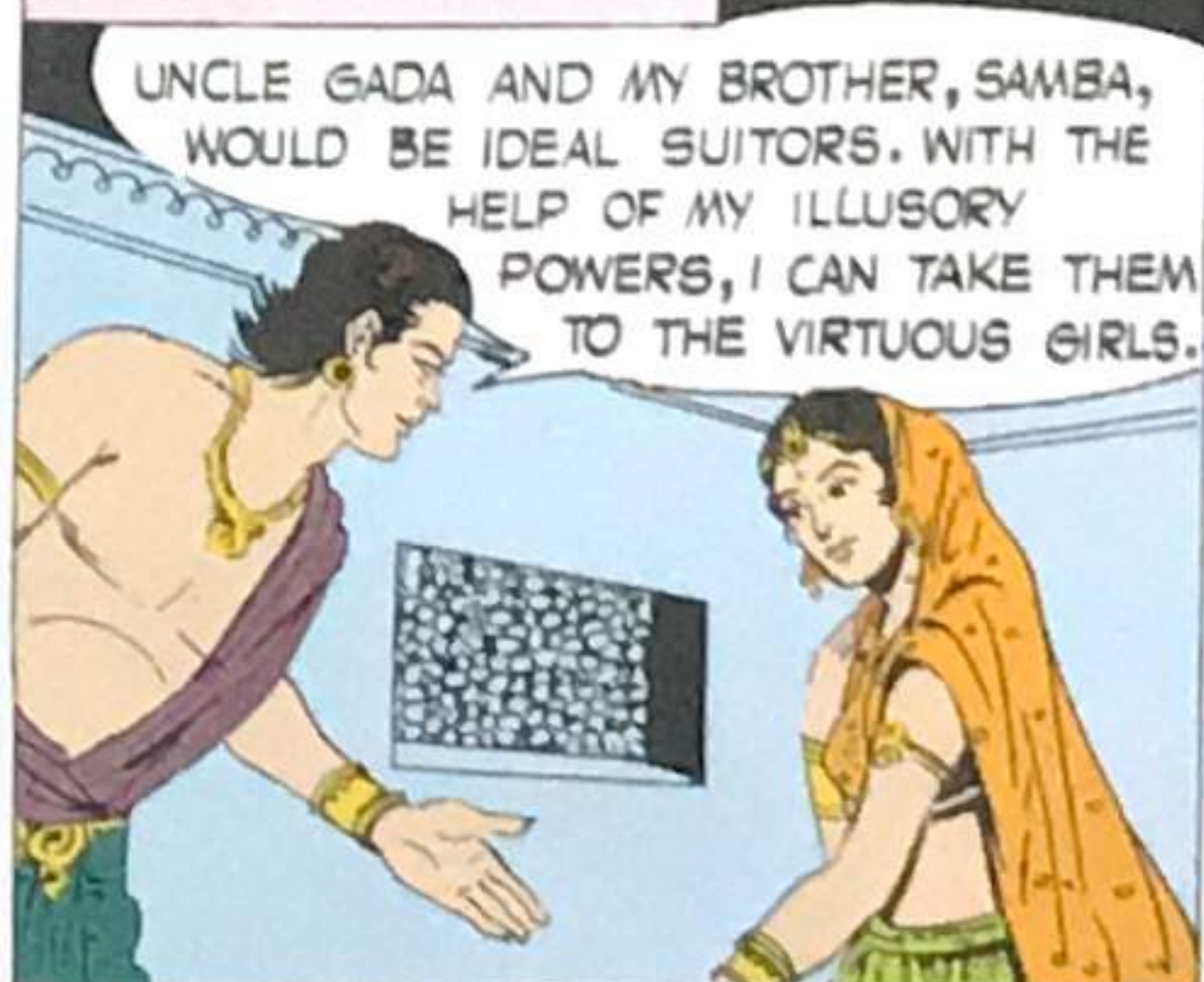
USING THE FIERY BLAZE OF THE GEM IN HIS RING AS THE SACRED FIRE, PRADYUMNA HELD PRABHAVATI'S HAND AND WENT ROUND IT SEVEN TIMES.



EARLY NEXT MORNING, AS PRADYUMNA TURNED HIMSELF INTO A BEE AND FLEW OUT OF THE PALACE, GUNAVATI AND CHANDRAVATI CAME LOOKING FOR PRABHAVATI.



THAT NIGHT, PRABHAVATI SPOKE TO PRADYUMNA OF HER COUSINS' WISHES.



SO, IN THE PRESENCE OF PRADYUMNA AND PRABHAVATI, SADA MARRIED CHANDRAVATI AND SAMBA, GUNAVATI.





A FEW DAYS LATER —

SUCHIMUKHI! YOU'RE BACK. DID YOU INFORM MY FATHER AND THE KING OF THE DEVAS OF THE WEDDINGS?

I DID. THEY ASKED YOU TO CONTINUE TO LIVE HERE AND AWAIT THEIR ORDERS.

MONTHS PASSED AND THE THREE BRIDES WERE SOON TO BECOME MOTHERS.

WHEN INDRA HEARD OF THIS —

GOOD, SUCHIMUKHI! THEIR SONS WILL BE BORN AS FULL-FORMED YOUTHS EQUAL TO PRADYUMNA IN LOOKS AND VALOUR.

THE GIRLS ACCORDINGLY DELIVERED AND WERE DELIGHTED WITH THEIR SONS.

MEANWHILE —

LORD, SAGE KASHYAP'S SACRIFICE IS COMPLETED. THE ASURAS WHO HAD GONE TO WITNESS IT HAVE RETURNED.

AN AUSPICIOUS DAY FOR US. GET MY CHARIOT READY. I WILL REQUEST HIM TO TELL INDRA TO HAND AMARAVATI OVER TO US PEACEFULLY.

BUT WHEN VAJRANABHA SPOKE TO KASHYAP —

INDRA IS THE ELDEST AMONG YOU AND IS ENTITLED TO THE CELESTIAL KINGDOM.

BUT I AM STRONGER. I CAN KILL HIM AND TAKE IT IF I HAVE TO.

NO, SON. SUCH AN ENCOUNTER WILL LEAD TO YOUR DEATH. SO DESIST FROM THE IMPOSSIBLE AND RETURN TO YOUR KINGDOM.

VAJRANABHA DID RETURN, BUT SEETHING WITH FURY, IT WAS THE HOUR OF DUSK.

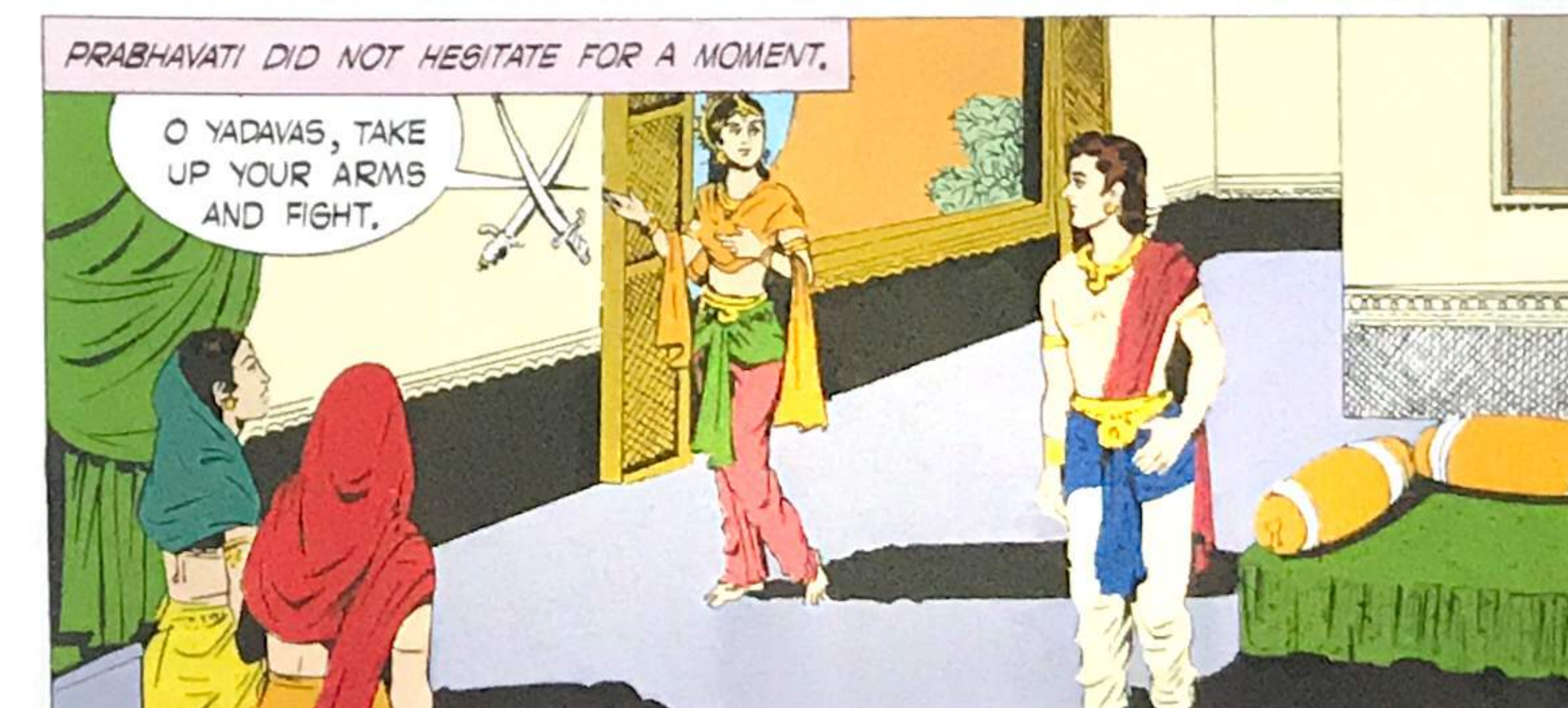
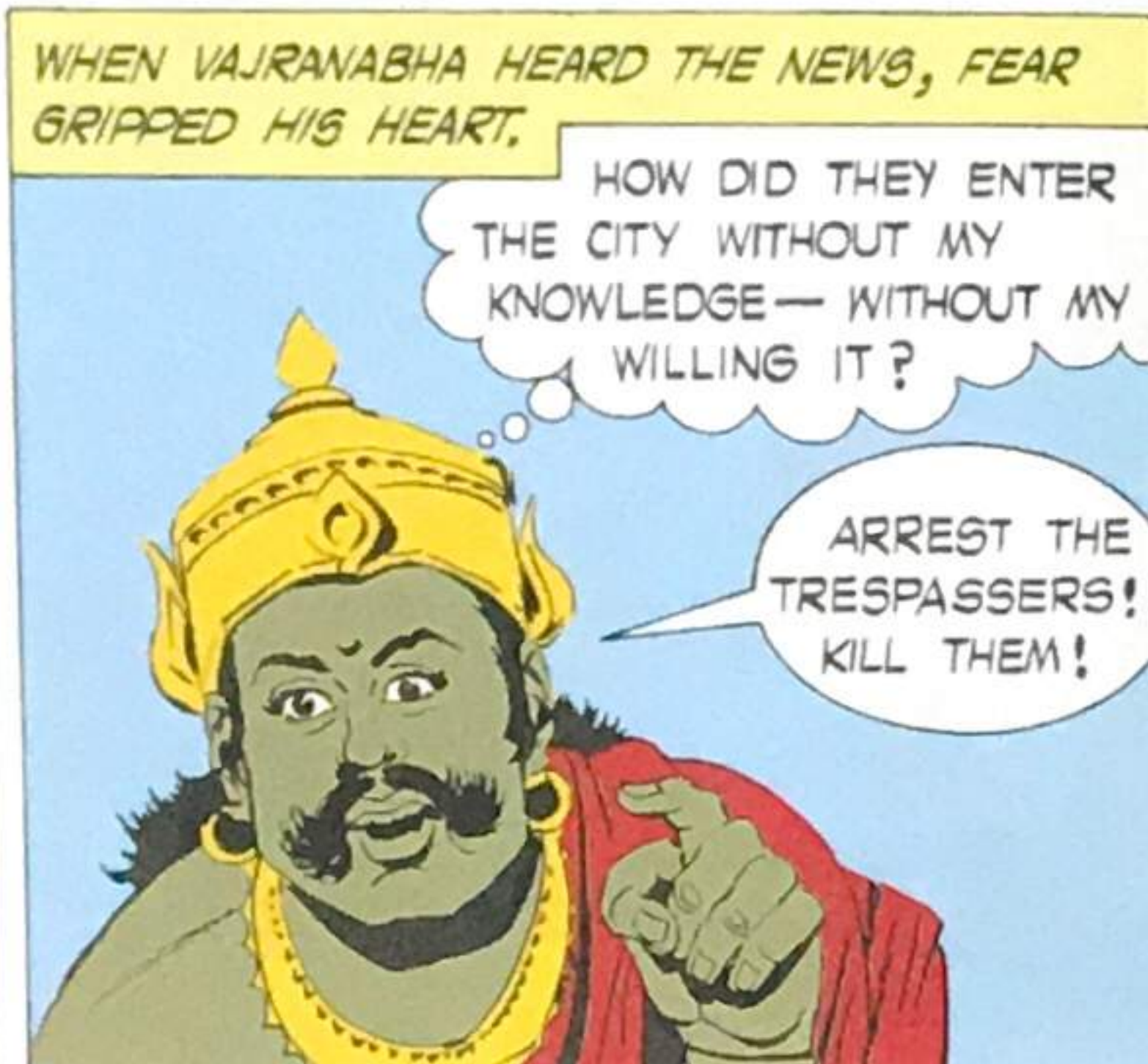
RALLY OUR FORCES. PREPARE FOR WAR AGAINST THE DEVAS. I SHALL TAKE AMARAVATI. LET HIM WHO CAN PREVENT ME.

AT THAT MOMENT, TWO ASURAS WHO WERE PATROLLING THE SKIES SAW THREE YOUTHS WANDERING ON THE TERRACE OF VAJRANABHA'S PALACE.

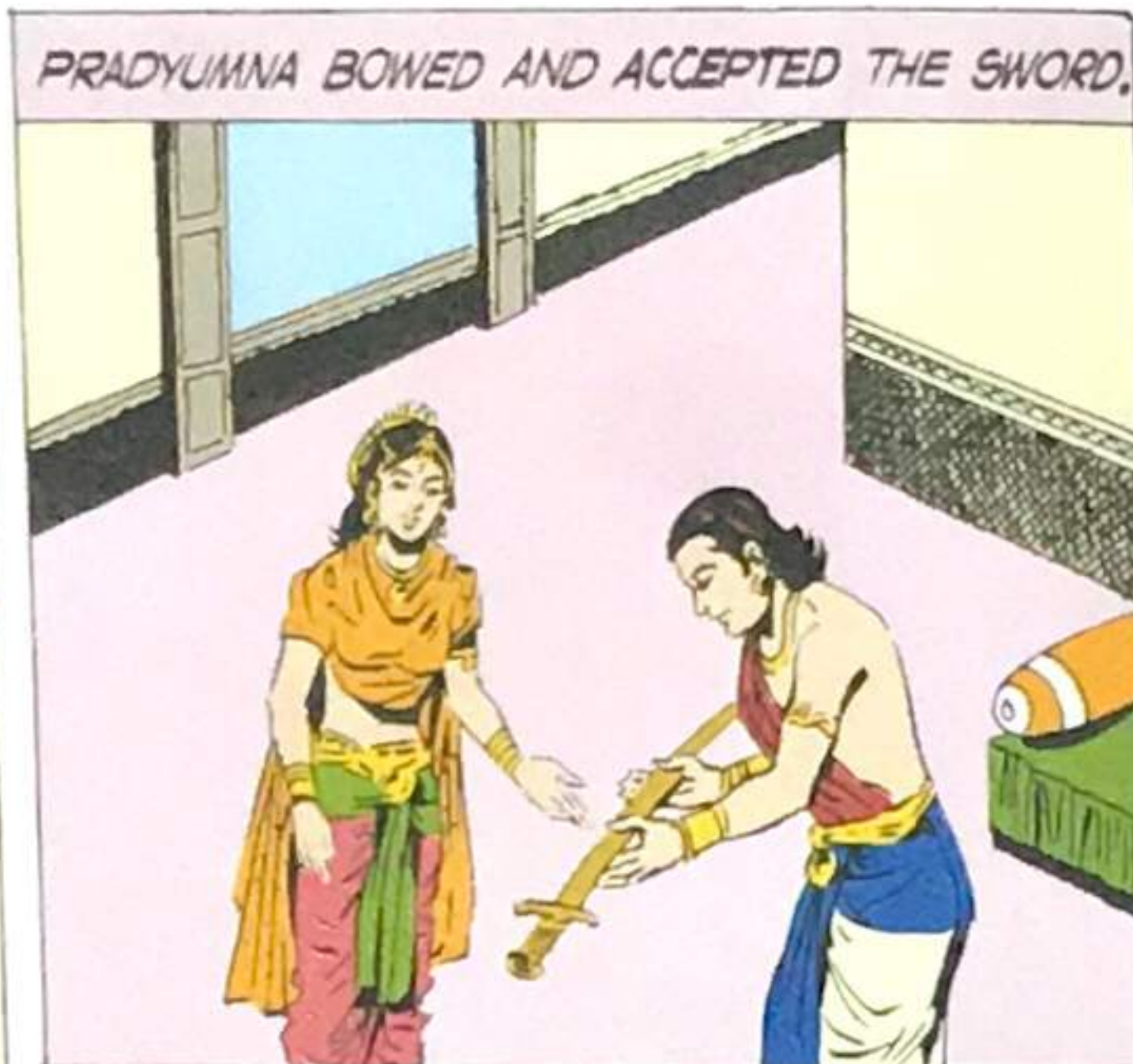
WHO ARE THEY? THEY LOOK LIKE YADAVAS TO ME.

THEY ARE! THE VERY IMAGES OF THE SCOUNDREL WHO KILLED SHAMBARA! I'VE SEEN HIM. I WAS AT SHAMBARA'S PALACE ON THAT FATEFUL DAY.









HE THEN DOWNED HIS ARMOUR AND TURNED TO HIS UNCLE GADA.

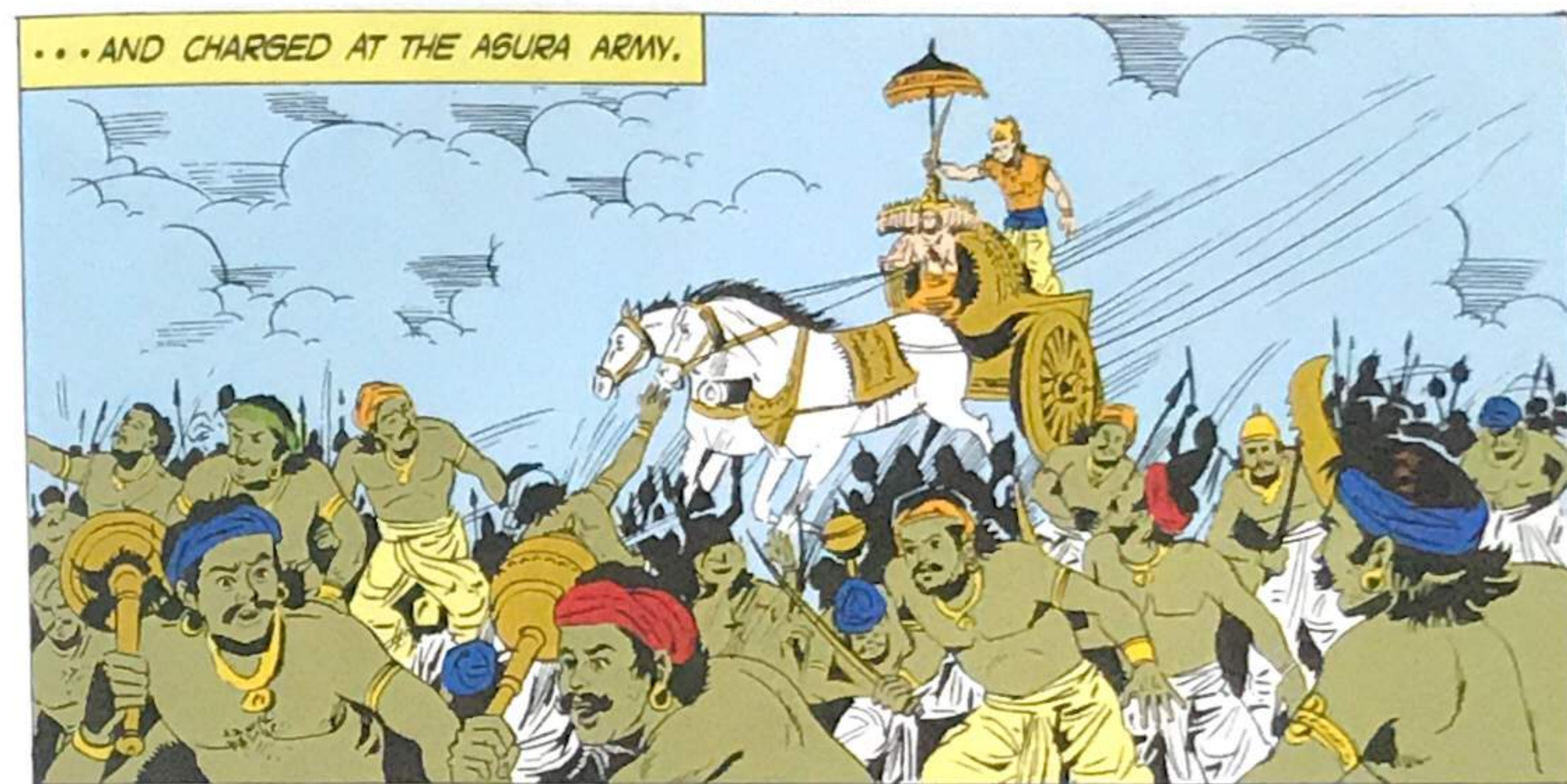
UNCLE, YOU AND SAMBA STAY HERE AND FIGHT. I WILL FIGHT FROM THE SKY. LET THE OTHER YADAVAS FIGHT IN THE PALACE COURTYARDS.



THEN, USING HIS ILLUSORY POWERS, PRADYUMNA CREATED A CHARIOT WITH A THOUSAND-HEADED NAGA AS HIS CHARIOTEER...



... AND CHARGED AT THE AGURA ARMY.



SUCHIMUKHI FLEW TO KRISHNA WITH THE NEWS.

MY FATHER'S SACRIFICE IS NOT YET OVER. INDRA AND I WILL JOIN THEM AS SOON AS IT IS COMPLETED.

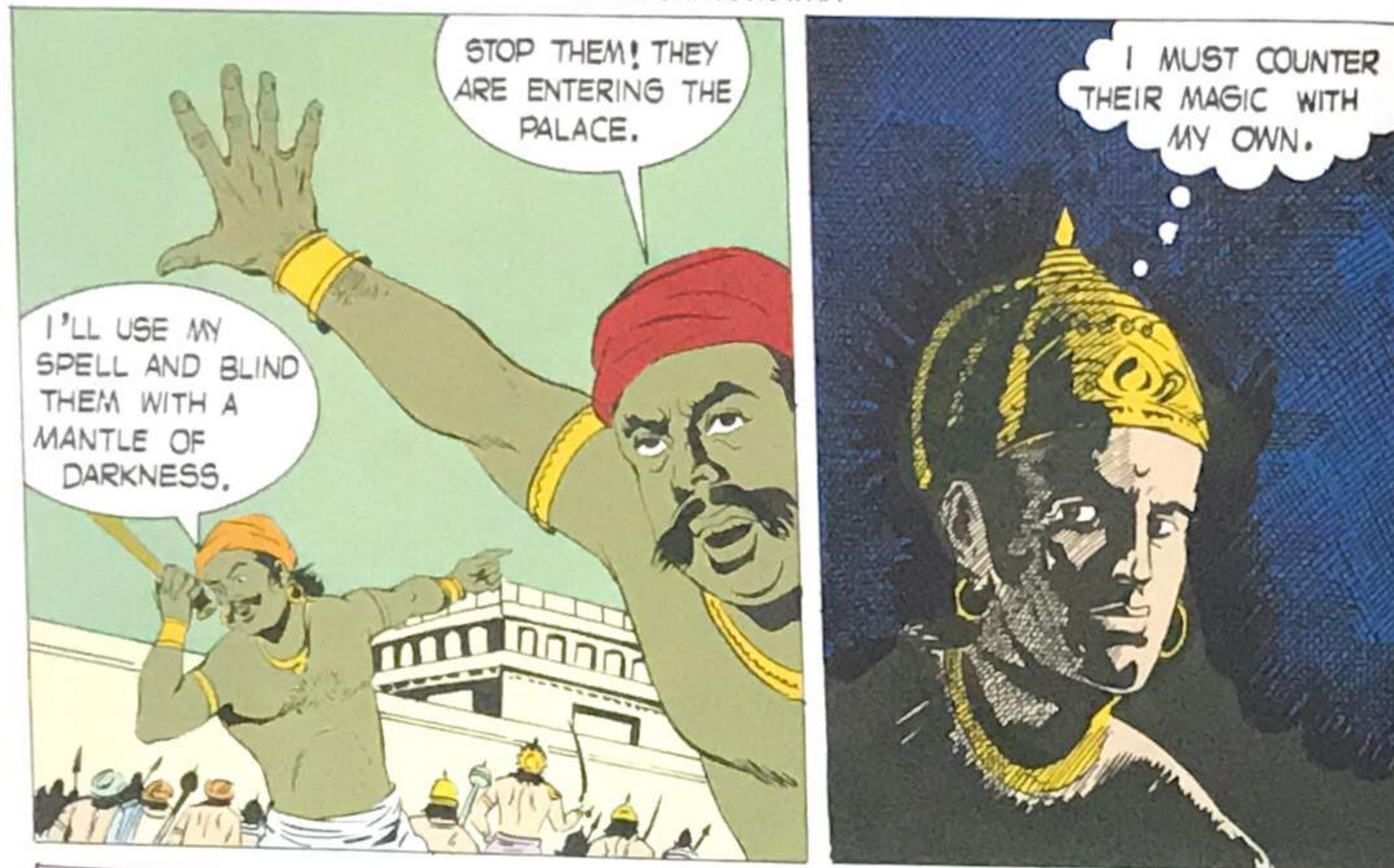


MEANWHILE, AT VAJRA —

I'LL FIGHT MY WAY INTO THE PALACE. VAJRANABHA IS MY MARK. AND I MUST GET HIM.







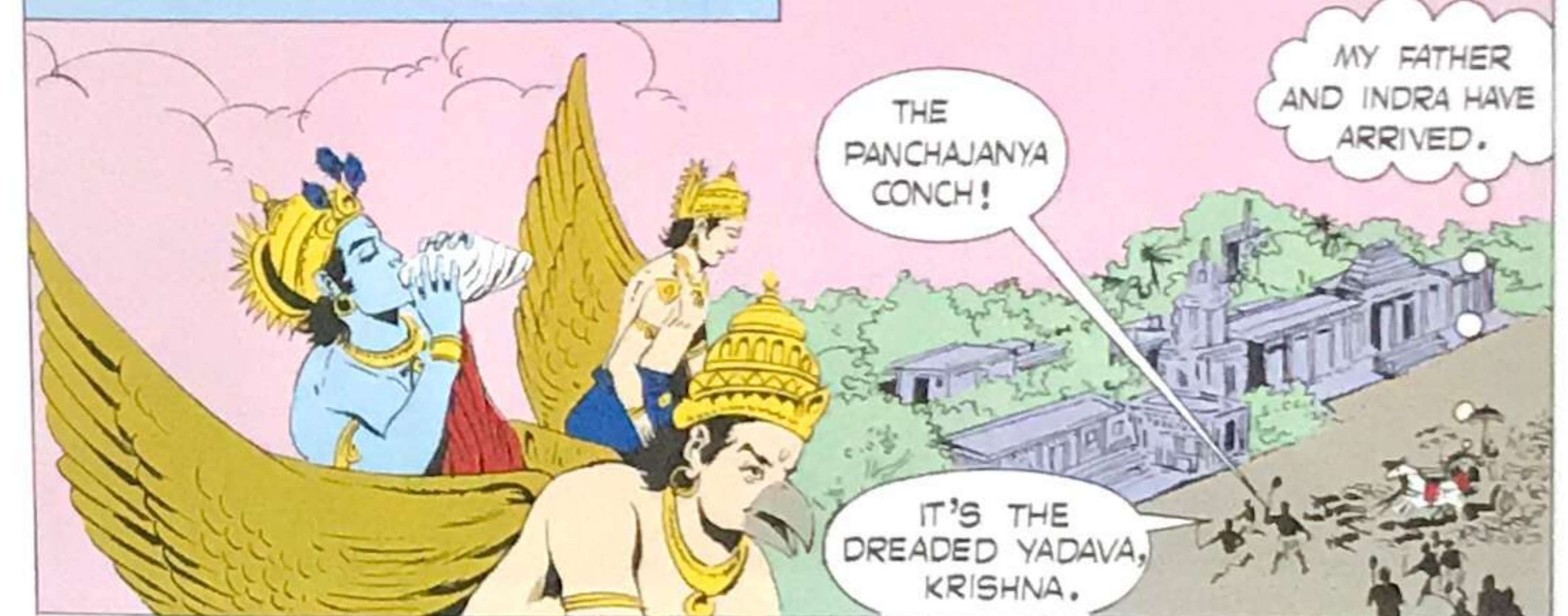
PRADYUMNA QUICKLY CREATED MILLIONS OF HIS OWN IMAGES AND THE SKY SHONE BRIGHT WITH THEIR ARMOUR.



BY THE TIME PRADYUMNA HAD FINISHED WITH IT, THREE-FOURTHS OF THE ASURA ARMY WAS DESTROYED.



AT THAT MOMENT, KRISHNA AND INDRA ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, RIDING ON GARUDA. KRISHNA BLEW HIS CONCH TO ANNOUNCE HIS ARRIVAL.



PRADYUMNA'S CHARIOTEER GUIDED HIS CHARIOT TOWARDS THE SOUND.





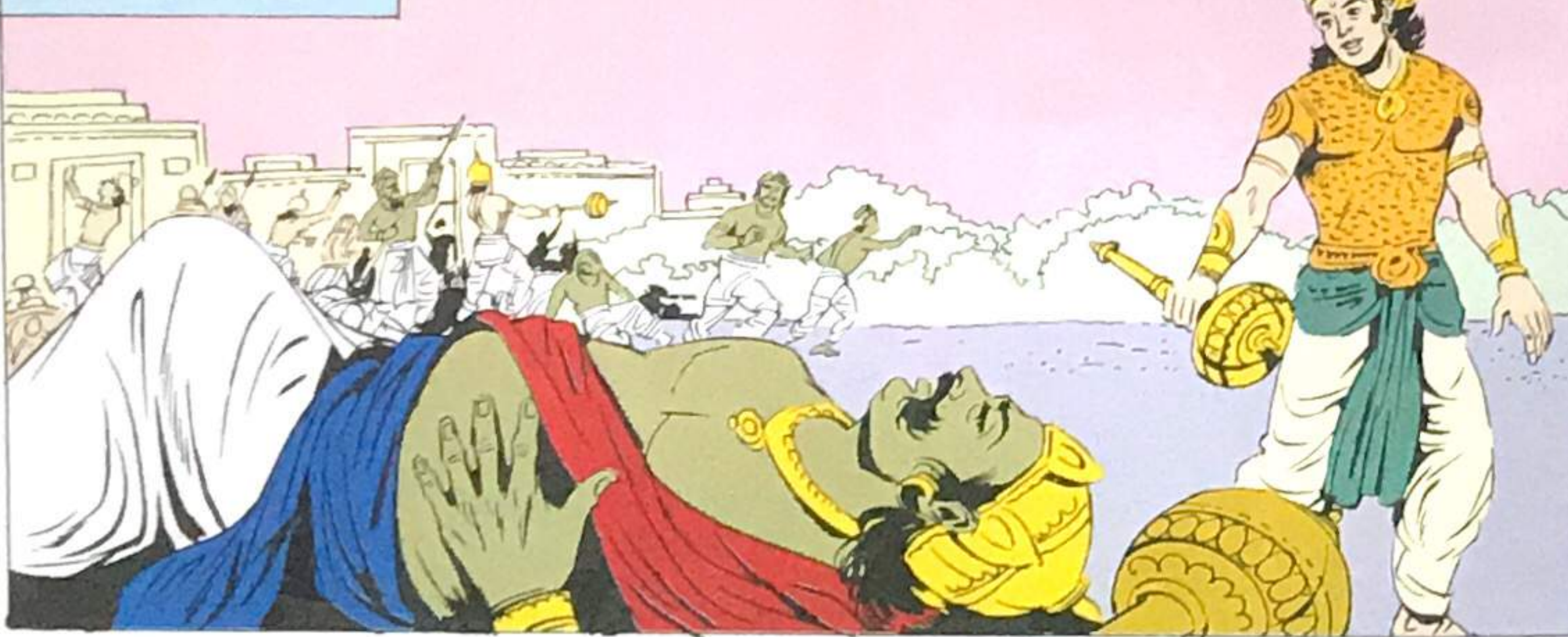
RIDING ON GARUDA, PRADYUMNA ADVANCED TOWARDS VAJRANABHA . . .



. . . AND SWUNG HIS CLUB.



VAJRANABHA FELL .



HARDLY HAD PRADYUMNA ALIGHTED FROM GARUDA, WHEN VAJRANABHA ROSE AGAIN.



WELL DONE, O POWERFUL YADAVA! NOW IT IS MY TURN TO STRIKE YOU.



PRADYUMNA FELL, UNCONSCIOUS.

ALAS! HE'S FALLEN!

HE'LL RISE AGAIN. DON'T WORRY.



KRISHNA RAISED PANCHAJANYA AND BLEW HARD AND LONG INTO IT.



HEARING THE SOUND, PRADYUMNA REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS . . .





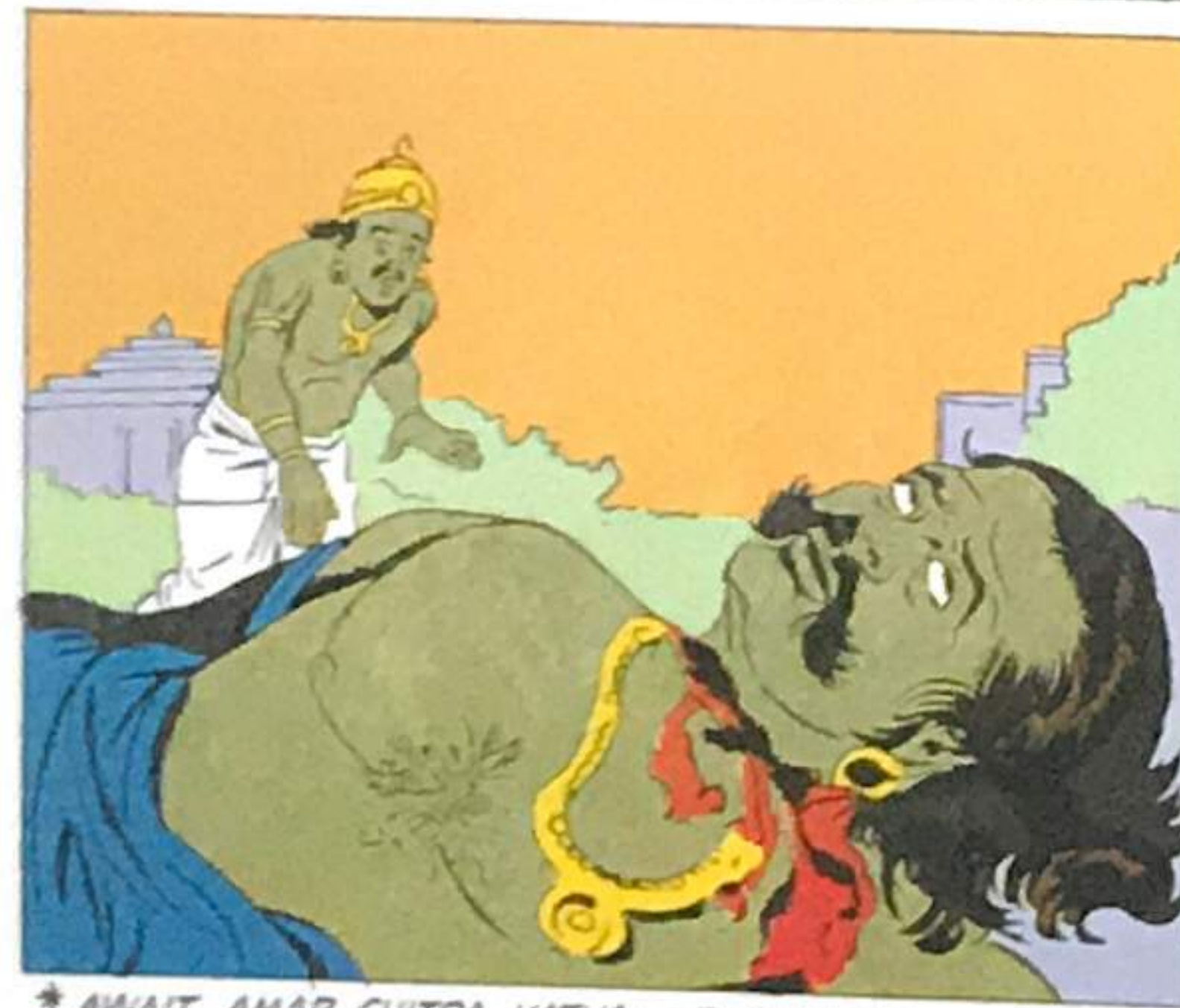
...AND STOOD UP, SUDDENLY—

WHAT'S THIS? FATHER HAS SENT HIS OWN WEAPON TO ME.



PRADYUMNA HELD UP HIS FINGER AND RECEIVED IT.

THE NEXT MOMENT, HE SENT IT WHIRLING TOWARDS VAJRANABHA.



WHEN HE SAW HIS BROTHER FALL, NIKUMBHA FLED FROM THE SCENE.

I'LL GO TO SHATPURA AND ESTABLISH A KINGDOM THERE. SOME DAY I SHALL AVENGE MY BROTHER'S DEATH.\*



LATER—

NO CITY SHOULD BE LEFT WITHOUT A RULER FOR LONG. LET THE ASURA'S KINGDOM AND WEALTH BE EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THE SONS OF PRABHAVATI AND OF HER COUSINS, AND INDRA'S GRANDSON.



PRADYUMNA SPOKE TO INDRA AND KRISHNA ON BEHALF OF HIS UNCLE AND SAMBA.

WITH YOUR PERMISSION WE WILL STAY ON AT VAJRA FOR SIX MONTHS TILL THE KINGDOMS OF OUR SONS ARE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED. WE WILL THEN RETURN TO DWARAKA WITH OUR WIVES.



KRISHNA AND INDRA WILLINGLY AGREED, AND RETURNED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE KINGDOMS WHILE THE OTHERS STAYED ON AT VAJRA TO FULFIL THEIR DUTIES TO THEIR SONS.